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Mr. Cumberland on popular Education.

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maintained by a relation in Yorkshire) could ever be benefited by it during her husband's life. A gentleman, a magistrate, of Berkeley-square, well known for his active benevolence, took up this case; her friends at Morlaix were written to, expressed great pleasure in the thoughts of receiving her, and she was eventually restored to them, by means of this gentleman's very strenuous exertions.

Relief at the office 11. 5s. 6d. Ticket
KK 61. *Mr. Hurst.*

No. 1192. *John Fortune. A single man, aged about twenty-two.—Examined, May 3, 1813.*

This man, an East Indian black, native of Bombay, after serving in various vessels, was wounded at the taking of the Isle of France, and lodged in an hospital there; he was sent to England in a vessel by the Port Admiral to endeavour to recover his pay; which, however, it appears that he had not been able to effect. The Navy Pay-Office was applied to, where very great pains were taken about him, and in the event the sum of 26l. 5s. was recovered. As it was very desirable that he should take home the greater part of this money with him, he was only paid some few sums on account, and he had a small weekly allowance made to him; and, in consequence of an application to the Admiralty, an order was granted for him to be taken into a receiving ship at Portsmouth, till such time as some vessel should sail for the East Indies. It appeared further that he had some claims for prize-money in different services; but before they could be settled, this young man, who was extremely intemperate and committed great excesses, died, and left 20l. behind him.

Relief at the office 4s. 6d. Ticket
UU 10. *Miss Buckingham.*

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

THE excellent reports of the different charitable institutions which are continually coming before the public, cannot fail to afford the best consolation to thinking minds, especially when contrasted by the hateful and detestable accounts, for twenty years past, promulgated, of the shameful abuse of human reason in the waste of life and treasure, on wars of ambition.

How long free Christian men suffer themselves to be the sport of such wickedness and folly, and to what extent heaven will permit the trial of human

patience in submitting to this murderous system of subjugation, it is impossible to conjecture; but, without the spirit of prophecy, I think we may be able to see that education is destined to give at last the death-blow to war for arbitrary power; for, when all are educated, all will know their proper duties, rank, and importance, as men, citizens, and Christians; ignorance of which alone makes men slaves, and dupes to slaves! One cannot but therefore feel warmly for the two societies of churchmen and dissenters, who have determined to confer the benefit of education on all within their reach; and Providence has already given them long arms to provoke each other to worthy deeds by daily snatching from the crowd helpless ignorance, so as to be rivals only in cordially doing good.

He, therefore, who would set up any difference between them, must be an unreflecting enemy to both his country and mankind, and merits already that reproof which, ultimately, his own conscience will inflict upon him. All now, however, goes on well; and the best service we can perform, is to promote the pecuniary interests of all our charitable institutions, by every stimulant that language can produce, and argument advance to rouse and keep men to this important duty.

And, first, I would recommend to the committees of charities, whenever they are obliged to employ tradesmen in executing the necessary works for charities, always to give the preference, by competition, to those who are willing to do the work for the smallest profits: for instance, in such a great concern of printing as the Bible Society, important sums there is no doubt must be saved by such a mode of proceeding; and to neglect it is to be as criminal as Ananias and Saphira; for to lessen public bounty is to destroy it.

Next I should hope, that bankers might be found, or trustees, who would make no interest of any deposit, but rather give it, as far as it can be done, without loss to themselves.

I would also strenuously recommend that our representatives be instructed to apply to parliament to take off the duties on all advertisements inserted with a view to promote these objects, and to allow the income tax on all funds purchased for the purpose of carrying them on, as in some cases has been done by the Bank of England.

But, above all, I must request them

[Jan. 1,

to endeavour to arrive at a better scale of subscription; and not only not to reject, but absolutely to encourage, by every honorable notice, subscriptions of small sums; and, if the collecting them is found too expensive, to declare that it will be adding greatly to the interest and security of the charities, to bring or send them to the treasurers, who will give receipts for any sum, from half-a-crown upwards, with the society's printed thanks annexed, in the same form as the receipt should be printed for a donation of one hundred pounds. For, the present scale of annual *guineas* presses hard upon the middling rank, and is by far too small a sum to ask of the wealthy and the great.

That there are men of immense fortunes who do not blush at annually exposing their names, annexed to sums that are a satire on their vanity and meanness, we cannot help seeing with sentiments of disgust; and, although such cannot easily be made to feel themselves, till the icy hand of Death comes to touch the last pulses of their sinking hearts; yet we may be sure that by encouraging the efforts of the humble and compassionate part of society, (if any thing could,) that would effect it; and, by stinging their tender pride, spur them on to deeds more resembling generosity; and thus the interests of society would be benefited in a double sense.

Nor let any one be alarmed, lest the men I allude to should withdraw their subscriptions on seeing themselves remarked; they already give the least sum that public opinion demands; or fear that the poor curate or shopkeeper, who equals them, will, for any thing I may urge, lessen his bounty? No—I know them both; the first often considers it as a tax that he must, yet dislikes, to pay; the other as a duty, that, however dear it may cost him, God will regard and return to his latest posterity.

Bristol.

G. CUMBERLAND.

To the Editor of the *Monthly Magazine*.

SIR,

ON reading your number for this month, I observed a request of Dr. Abauzit, respecting the Geneva Bible. Having one by me, I beg leave to give the description of it he wants, and also an exact transcript of the 7th verse of the 7th chapter of the Epistle of the Romans, as it stands in my copy.

The title page is as follows:—

La Bible, qui est Tonte la Sainte
Escriture du Vieul & du Nouveau Testa-

ment : Autrement l'Anciene & la Nouvelle Alliance. Le tout reneu et conferé sur les textes Hebreux & Grecs par les Pasteurs et Professeurs de l'Eglise de Geneve. Avec une Table bien ample. Item les Pseumes & Cantiques, avec les Prieres Ecclesiastiques. Imprimé, A. Geneve, Par les Heritiers de Hierosme Haultin. 1615.

The verse runs as follows, in old French:—

Qui dirons-nous donc ? La Loy est-elle peché ? Ainsi n'aduiene : ainçois ie n'ai point cognu le peché, sinon par la Loy, car ie n'eusse point cognu que c'estoit de conuoitise, si la Loy n'eust dit, Tu ne conuiteras point.

BOWDEN GUNDRY.

Bridport ; Nov. 25, 1815.

To the Editor of the *Monthly Magazine*.

SIR,

ACCIDENTAL fires being particularly alarming in a great and opulent city, the most effectual methods for their prevention, or speedy extinction, certainly deserves our most anxious consideration. Notwithstanding our great attention to this subject, and our prodigious expence, I am not sure whether, after all, we put in practice every possible exertion for this purpose; for how does it happen that, although we possess superior advantages, in point of water and machinery, to any other great city in Europe, yet in none, except those which are constructed altogether of wood, are fires so destructive and so seldom extinguished. This I must attribute to our usual complete inactivity in attempting to combat the fire from its first discovery to the period of throwing up the water, which varies from a quarter to a whole hour. On many occasions an engine will be seen in ten minutes, but, from whatever cause it proceeds, no water can commonly be procured until, by the growing progress of the fire, its efforts are altogether unavailing. Had the last two fires which I witnessed been attacked when first observed, the hundredth part of the water, and the hundredth part of the exertion, would have been sufficient to extinguish them, which the delay of a few minutes rendered necessary. By stopping a quarter of an hour, they became wholly invincible, and were interrupted only by the intervention of party walls.

I have some reason to think, that the placing sole reliance on our great and powerful means of extinguishing fires is frequently the cause of their more extensive ravages. Some time ago, pass-

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for insertion in your general Miscellany, from the fuller details of the whole returns and certificates, which were annually sent to the Agricultural Magazine; yet that now, and in future, admitting to your pages, similar accounts of animals exhibited, without gaining any prize, for which returns have voluntarily been made, will not be of less, but perhaps of more practical use, than accounts of prize animals only; it being to be presumed, that the former approach somewhat nearer, as to fatness and perfection, to the state of cattle usually sent to the markets of the country, than animals which are thought to be the best in their several classes.

The premiums offered for the shew in December next, are the same as in the two last years, with only some small alterations in the conditions, besides the material one above-mentioned; and printed bills, fully explaining these, are left for distribution with Mr. Mitchel, draper, No. 7, Cloth-Fair, Smithfield-market; at Mr. Layton Cooke's, Agricultural Repository, Winsley-street, opposite the Pantheon; and with the new collector to the club, Mr. Elwin, at the House of the Society of Arts, in the Adelphi.

Feb. 14, 1816.

J. FAREY, sec.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

IN your widely circulated miscellany for this month, I was surprised to see two little pieces of poetry written by Miss Logan, and said to be copied from an American selection; from which it would of course be inferred that the amiable author was a native of that continent. The fact may not indeed be very important, yet as a true statement of a thing related is always desirable, whatever subject it respects, your readers perhaps will not be displeased to hear the following particulars.—Maria Logan was born at Newcastle upon Tyne, in the year 1759. In that year, her father, who was a native of Scotland, engaged in a mercantile concern in the Island of Antigua, and Mrs. Logan and her infant daughter removed to Catterick, near Richmond, in Yorkshire, where my father, who was the predecessor of the excellent Mr. Lindsey, then resided. Being a very lively interesting child, the writer of this account, at that time herself very young, had great pleasure in teaching her to repeat many small pieces of poetry, which she committed to memory with

extraordinary facility, and which gave rise to the following uncommon achievement—more remarkable, it must be confessed, for the retentive memory of the pupil, than for the judgment and wisdom of the instructress. When the little Maria was between three and four years of age, Pope's Essay on Man happening to lie in the window, it was taken up, and the first line read aloud—“Awake my St. John, leave all meaner things;” to which the child very archly replied, “To low ambition and the pride of kings;”—and thus suggested the attempt of teaching her the whole Essay. The effort was so completely successful, that on her birth-day, in the following February, when she completed her fourth year, she repeated the whole four epistles to a neighbouring clergyman, who came on purpose to hear her, almost without making a single mistake. The admiration excited, and the praise bestowed, might perhaps be one cause of her great predilection in after-life in favour of poetry, which was productive at least of one happy effect,—that, in a very long protracted illness, by which she was confined to her bed seven years, and which at length put a period to her life in this city, in the year 1796, it contributed to soothe many a tedious hour of langour and sickness. She was prevailed upon by her friends to print a few copies of poems occasionally composed, but which, as they were never publicly advertised, or extensively circulated, it is difficult to imagine how they should have found their way across the Atlantic. If, however, Sir, any of your numerous readers would be gratified by it, I may in a future number transmit you a few more specimens of her resignation and her talents.

CATHERINE CAPPE.

York; Feb. 18, 1816.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

A tranquil spectator of the progress of our own times, attentive to the shifting scenes, from my quiet and commanding post *on the middle benches*—I have for a great number of years taken the liberty to communicate occasional reflections on various subjects as they arose, such as I thought might benefit or interest the public, avoiding subjects political or religious in general, as they are apt to agitate too much, and lead at once to controversy; yet I have not refrained alluding to them where I thought it my duty, as in the case of my letter

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to Dr. Porteus, on a question that vitally touched the first principles of freedom, the liberation of our African brethren;—for, till the time comes that men can no longer be born slaves in our colonies, or be transferred from island to island, little has indeed been done in that cause. We must make landing or living on British colonies *the act of emancipation*, as it is at home, or we shall only palter with the negroes in a double sense, to “*keep the word of promise to the ear, and break it to the hope.*” But to return to my post of honour.

After viewing, rather impatiently, all the tragic scenes of the late destructive war, I own I was astonished at seeing, when the glorious sun of peace again shewed signs of revisiting our horizon, that the whole political theatre was agitated with discontent instead of pleasure—because, as will naturally be the case, some felt his revivifying beams more than others—some even openly declaring they had rather return to the dark chaos of contending elements, profiting as they had done before by the miseries of mankind, than hail the rising dawn of order, if it lessened their emoluments. But surely this is the madness of avarice, which blushes not to propose defrauding the public creditor, or even worse means, to gain its detested end; and all this despair, of which I see and hear so much, springs vigorously from the dark-root of selfishness and fraud: for my own part, I see nothing in the present state of events, but what it was perfectly natural to expect, and *nothing in them at all that should excite despondency.* We have run up the bill, and we must pay the amount! and, perhaps, the history of mankind does not afford an instance of a nation who were so well able to face such a terrific settling.

It is not a question, I apprehend, of gold against paper, as some idly speculate, but whether those who have for twenty years been profiting by the war, shall out of these enormous profits meet *their share* of the charge, as others have done who were losers: for, notwithstanding a few exceptions, the general mass of landholders and commercial men have indisputably been benefited, while the fund-holder sunk as gradually into difficulties as the taxes increased, to support the exertions of government. Let us see, therefore, what constitutes the capital of the country, and we shall see at the same time what causes the fluctuations in the value of property; and it will appear, that, in point of value, all

our possessions are much alike, as being equally at times naturally subject to fluctuation.

All the money lent to government represent the profits of capitals which cannot be employed in trade or manufactures; for no one will live on a capital acquired, if he can procure interest for it; and, as war cannot be carried to any extent without borrowing money, trade is in effect the cause of that power which war confers.

The consumption of goods manufactured, which war occasions by encreasing the demand, rapidly encreases their price; hence also the augmented price of provisions during war, and thence the high price demanded for the *use* of land to raise produce to meet the demand, and which can be sold at an advance on that very account.

And thus the price of the *use* of land at last becomes *usury*, as much as the exorbitant interest paid by the government to the money-lender, in order to continue wars of defence or ambition.

The land and houses are a tangible property, a capital or raw material, only producing income in proportion to their products; for, a house being an absolute necessary as well as land, the one for shelter the other for food, they will always produce some sort of income in proportion to the wealth of those to whom they are necessary, or who possess the means to procure them as luxuries.

Thus, houses and lands must necessarily fluctuate in value as all other capitals do, and those who have engaged to give for the use of them an enhanced or *usurious* price, owing to the encreased value of their produce, must be *content* to be losers, whenever by peace or other means produce falls in value; and it is folly in them to complain of an event always probable,—a concurrent circumstance attending their speculations.

The stock-holder's capital,—or that part of the property of individuals which they either do not chose to, or cannot, employ in trade or manufactures, and which they have an opportunity of placing at *usury* with the government, because it becomes by that means productive without labour;—this capital being lent to the state on its engagement to pay in perpetuity an interest of 5l. per cent. or to return the capital:—this capital cannot well be called tangible on the whole, but rests on the public faith, *the faith of parliament, or the entire government who have borrowed it in the name of the whole nation, whether landholders,*

[April 1,

landholders, householders, or commercial men, for general purposes of war or government; and, although these proprietors can realize it, according to its price, at any time, as easy or easier than the landholder can his capital, yet the results would be equally prejudicial to income; for, although all capitalists can convert their property into gold, by making the purchase with the paper they receive for the sale, yet no one chooses to live on his dead capital, for the sake of the complete security of it in this form, in preference to the uncertain security of an income arising from money placed at usury,—and thus he is forced to rely on public faith.

On the other hand, capital in land or houses cannot be stolen as capital in cash, and capital in funded debt is less liable to variation as to interest; and thus it comes about, that almost all men refuse to live on their dead capital, except only the mechanic or teacher of any art, who gains a small one annually by dint of labour; for the mechanic and the small trader, literally, in many cases, must expend what they gain, annually acquired by time and toil; and are incontestably to be most pitied, when called on to give a tenth of that labour to the public purse; for feudal times, it must be confessed, did not exact more.

Thus, to me it appears, that, excepting these cases, we are all alike subject to fluctuation of income from various causes, and nearly all alike subject to risk of total loss at periods. For, if the landed man creates a civil war by defrauding the public creditor, and so places his land in jeopardy, (and the householder in that case would soon lose all,) he would find it even more difficult to raise ready money on his tangible capital, than the provident stockholder at the commencement of public hostilities; and, therefore, it has by this mixture of holdings, (and all capitalists must have surplus capital in the funds,) become fortunately necessary to cling together like the bundle of sticks in the fable, to acquire strength; and, however the folly of the landed man's increased expenditure in establishment, or the folly of his neglecting to lay by his extra profits, (for that is all one,) may make him feel severely the sudden fall in the value of his capital, he must stoically support an evil for which there is now no remedy; and, as the stock-holder did, during the war, patiently submit to a reduction in his establishment, till other changes shall cast his lot into more productive ground.

And, after all, we are all right in not burying our talents, (speaking literally,) for, by means of this interest of 5l. per cent. once in twenty years, at very little risk, we are enabled to expend the value of our whole capital, and find it again. So that a man who is a good life may at least twice expend the gross amount of his estate, and leave it to his children at last.

It will be wise, therefore, to be patient, each to meet his losses like men of sense, to combine only to promote economy in every department of our own households, and the expenditure of the state; and, with the genuine character of a great commercial people, hold faithfully to all our national engagements.

G. CUMBERLAND.

Bristol; Feb. 15, 1816.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING passed several months in Paris since the Convention of July 1815, I have collected, in the agreeable society of that city, various amusing and interesting anecdotes, some of which I now inclose; and, if they should prove acceptable to yourself and your readers, I will add to their number, until my budget is exhausted, or till I am considered as no longer worthy of occupying the columns of your valuable miscellany. BETA.

RELIEF OF VIRTUOUS POVERTY.

It is a well-recognized truth, that those who claim parochial relief are often not the most to be pitied—virtuous poverty, which has seen better days, pines in secret; and sickness and want are supported with patience, rather than make the revolting appeal to an unfeeling overseer of the poor. Sensible of the merits of this deserving class, the Emperor Napoleon ordered letter-boxes to be fitted up in all the churches; where, without their delicacies being wounded, the virtuous poor could, as they passed, deposit a note expressive of their wants, whether of food or labour. These boxes were only opened by the higher clergy, who were sworn to secrecy; and the wants of the parties were relieved, without any of the humiliating circumstances, or the publicity, of the common mode.

AN IMPERIAL SPANIEL.

An old woman at Paris had a water-spaniel, who could perform a number of tricks. One of the Russian princes saw it, and ordered the woman to bring it to the Emperor's head-quarters. The price demanded for the dog was 400 francs, which

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Capital Punishments.—Monopoly in Trade.

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To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

THE following extract from a printed copy of the "Substance of the Bishop of Rochester's Speech in the House of Peers," May 23, 1800, I most sincerely wish may claim the attention of the committee of the "Society for diffusing Knowledge respecting the Punishment of Death and Prison Discipline," and other persons. Speaking of the repentance of criminals sentenced to die, the bishop says, "the Church appoints a clergyman to attend the condemned malefactor in the interval between sentence and execution, to prepare him for death, and to assist him in making his peace with God; and, if he gives signs of genuine repentance, the Church so much relies on the acceptance of that repentance, that she permits him to be admitted to the Sacrament. Thus, dying by the stroke of vindictive justice, he dies in the peace and communion of the Church; he dies a reconciled penitent, in the hope of final pardon. My lords, were the case otherwise, I know not upon what principle capital punishments could be justified in a Christian country." The last sentence is particularly recommended to the attention of the serious and reflecting part of mankind.

O. C.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

THE following considerations are respectfully addressed to the ladies and opulent housekeepers of the metropolis. In the present depressed state of trade, the difficulties and dangers of the times chiefly affect the lower and middling classes of tradesmen, who, from the diminished profits of their small capitals, and slender returns, are absolutely unable to support their families, make good their commercial payments, and satisfy the incessant and heavy demands of the tax-gatherer. Hence the bankruptcy and absolute ruin of so many of these middling, and hitherto thriving and respectable, families. Now, the opulent capitalist in a similar line avoids all these perils, and, in fact, by the force of property, and ability to stand his ground, not only does so, but continues to profit immensely by the fall of his inferiors in the trade. It is an old Scripture proverb, that, "to him who hath shall be given, but from him that hath little, even that little shall be taken away." Our ancestors expressed the same mean-

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ing in a coarse and homely way, indeed somewhat too coarse to be repeated, considering to whom this is addressed. It is with regret we publish, that our patronesses are far too scriptural in this way, generally crowding to a few shops of the greatest business, to men, indeed, who have so much that, with all the assistance their great funds enable them to employ, the longest day in the year is scarcely long enough to enable them to get through it; whilst, in the great majority of inferior shops, we see scarcely any thing but emptiness and despondency. This unfeeling conduct has prevailed in London, as a sort of fashionable rage, nearly half a century; and in no line so conspicuously as in the haberdashery. The present object with the ladies, and, if so, not surely a very becoming or creditable one, is said to be a small and paltry saving, per yard, in ribbons, and various articles; an end which might be equally well answered by a diffusion of patronage; in which case, there would be nearly a general ability in the trade to afford articles of equal quality at equal price, more commercial justice, and no huge leviathans to swallow up and devour the smaller fishes.

The following statement of the returns of the most extensive haberdashery concerns in London, is given on the best authority:—

Return of a house in Fore-street: annual average 2000l. per day. About half, or from 800l. to 1000l. per day retail in cash; the remainder wholesale, at one month, the longest credit.

A. P. and S. return about 800l. per day.

House, Fish-street hill, and Gerrard-street, 1000l. per day.

Ditto, Ludgate-hill, about 400l. per day.

Ditto, Mary-le-bonne, 100l. per day.

Ditto, Greek-street, 100l. per day.

Ditto, Oxford-street, 100l. per day.

The above being a yearly average, the sums of money taken daily, for retail articles, by one or two of the above shops, must be immense. BENEVOLUS.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

EVER since the commencement of your Magazine, I have occasionally troubled your readers with my opinions on various topics unconnected with politics or religion, because it seemed to me that you were overstocked with other volunteer correspondents on those subjects, who chiefly delighted to exercise their pens on the gloomy side of the question. For a long time these

F f gentlemen

gentlemen endeavoured to make me believe that, as gold rose, bank-notes decreased in value; yet I never was able to perceive, with all their dark-lanterns before me, other than that gold was dearer than usual, (not, I must confess, expecting that it would so soon come back to its old price,) yet, finding my bank-notes go very well at market, I suffered no uneasiness on that account. Next I was taught by them that nothing could be called secure property but land; yet I contrived, in the face of their predictions, to dispose of what land I had when the price was high; not, I must confess, without some fears that I might be wrong; but the event has shewn the wisdom of not following these bold advisers. They told me the bank had stopped payment, and were bankrupts, so long ago, that, forgetting these predictions, I have gone on, taking these notes for many long years, as if nothing were the matter. Again, I was informed by our country-bankers that half the small bank-notes were forgeries; but, having occasion to receive 900*l.* all in one-pound notes, and finding, on examining them in Threadneedle-street, that all were good, my fears on that head were entirely dissipated.

Now, all these things have led me to be a little cautious of political paradoxes, and the profound discoveries of half-thinkers on these subjects; but, on the subject of the causes of our present difficulties, seeing such diversity of opinions afloat, like the confusion of tongues among the builders of Babel, I am apt to sigh when I come to them, and wish for some more interesting lucubrations; for, while one asserts them to be owing to war-expenditure, loans, and subsidies; another assures me that it is merely from the sudden change from war to peace: and the following are only a few of the reasons produced, each as having been productive of our present embarrassments, viz.

A reduced circulation, from the fall of rents and provisions.

The stoppage of discounts by the Bank of England.

The depreciation of paper money.

The overloading foreign markets with our produce.

The high rents, and little value of stock.

The disbanding the army and navy.

The keeping up a standing army abroad.

The bad crops.

The poor-laws and poor-rates.

The wasteful expenditure of government.

The inadequate representation of the people.

The high taxes, and the great extravagance of the rich.

The corruption of the national press.

The absence of proprietors of land.

The tythes, country-banks, and Income-tax.

The lottery, assessed taxes, and Sinking Fund.

The places, pensions, and sinecures.

On all these subjects, and a great many more than I can recount, have pamphlets, essays, and paragraphs, inundated the press, and covered the tables of the reading-rooms, whilst your pages have borne their share of the burthen, to the exclusion of many less enigmatical, and more profitable, subjects of speculation. One of your political doctors, who considers us as expiring in the last stage of national misery, comes last month, with garbled extracts and hearsay-evidence, from the examination of a committee of agriculture, and holds up a raw-head, enough to frighten all the distressed landholders, and make them give away their estates in despair, if it were not for the antidote found in the same month, where Sir John Sinclair shews them that the total annual profit of the soil in 1814 might be estimated at 215,521,565*l.* Then again we have a gentleman who, as he surveys our good soil from the top of a flying stage-coach, sees, at the same time, the weakness of the land, and the melancholy state of the fundholders; and kindly, lest the shock should overcome them, prophetically apprizes them of the gulph that is going to swallow them all up, if they do not relinquish their rights, and give their incomes to support his friends—the landholders; he is even crueller than Cobbett to these poor green-horns, and will not let them enjoy their last dividend in peace, although government are so kind as to give them a glimmer of the new coin before they expire.

Perhaps, sir, it is my natural flow of spirits which prevents me from sinking under all these terrific predictions; or the obtuseness of my understanding may prevent me from comprehending all those expositions of danger which, I doubt not, have for years harrowed up the souls of these honest gentlemen; but so it is, that I not only cannot see so many causes contributing to one effect, but I cannot even see the real cause at all of our present difficulties in any of them, much less can I see the remedy in despair, or dishonest dealings.

I see

I see plainly enough that our poor-rates are, in most manufacturing towns, encreasing, and that numbers of people want employ; I see also, and feel it too, that our taxes lie so heavy on people of small fortune and little trade, that they cannot be paid without great privations;—that we have overstocked foreign markets, and, by raising our rents, are ruining the agricultural manufactures;—that foreign subsidies act as a real diminution of capital gained by trade;—that lotteries are bad things;—loans dangerous to the borrowers as well as lenders;—that war is the road to waste, commencing in wickedness;—and that nothing can be more unequal than the present state of our representation. I also see, that a reduction of unnecessary places and undeserved pensions would be a great relief. In a word, I see, as plainly as the most sanguine of our *quid-nuncs* could wish me, that we are in great difficulties, and have committed many errors,—the natural consequences of the thirst of gain and national ambition, unrestrained by our Christian profession; for I am sorry to remember that this unhappy war (which from 1792 I deprecated as the forerunner of many evils, being then in France, and able to judge of its non-necessity), has been hailed by arbitrary courts for vengeance and for power, by our land-proprietors as the means of hoisting rents, by our merchants, shouted-for as a grand source of extension of exclusive commerce, and enjoyed by the great capitalist as the never-failing fountain of profitable loans. The consequence has been, as in all overstretched speculations it usually is, that none of the parties (I was going to say partners) are satisfied. Yet, as Shakspeare has it, “They bestrode the narrow world, and left us petty men to walk between their legs.” And the remedy I apprehend must be, as in the common affairs of life, for each party to make the best he can of it, and bear his portion of the loss with patience. Things might have ended worse, and I own I expected they would; we were not overran like France, or stripped of our trade like Holland, or reduced to beggary like Italy; but, if we go together by the ears, and realize the fable of “the Belly and the Members,” we shall suffer altogether evils worse than their’s. It is acknowledged that our poor fellow-creatures must be supported, fed, and employed; Christianity demands it, and the laws have decreed it;—we have also,

thank God, the means to fulfil them. Equity, as well as law, compels the payment of our debts; national honour, and national credit, are equally imperative on this subject. In the execution of these indispensable duties, the little men will be laid under a heavy pressure for a long time to come, and the great men pretty strongly squeezed; and the poor will, as is usual in these cases, come in for double sufferings, when they are only partially employed; but they will be the first to find relief, for, as the spirit of commerce can never be extinguished in a nation like our’s, possessed of capital, talents, industry, and materials to manufacture, with the most perfect machinery; labour must share again, as it has done, in the profits of trade; and those who are now looking up to us for subsistence, as the reward of their useful services, whether in civil or military life, will, I trust, soon be better employed, than in managing state-affairs, which, of all others, they the least understand.

In the mean time, I cannot see why national labours should not be undertaken, and paid for, out of the national purse. It is an acknowledged axiom, that nothing is lost which is expended on the country; and where shall we find so good an opportunity of benefiting every individual in the kingdom, as by repairing and improving all the old roads, cutting out new ones, erecting bridges, creating good pathways of stone in all directions, and in every way making accessible, and of course saleable, all our waste lands. This would indeed be a great bonus to the landholder; but the fundholder would also benefit by it, inasmuch as it would facilitate the means of paying those taxes from which he must derive his income, by delivering the landholder from the pressure of poor’s-rates, and thereby enabling him to accept a somewhat diminished rent without ruin.

This would be far better than advancing loans to either commerce or agriculture, for we have already had but too much trading on mere credit; and, if I am asked where is the money to come from that is to set this machine in motion, I answer, from the *great proprietors of either stock or land, or, if you like

* I mean by loan or subscription, but I think subscription would be the wisest, both from fund and landholders of opulence, and wealthy manufacturers—for,

[April 1,

like it better, the interest of the present Sinking Fund, till the object is attained, and trade again demands the services of the poor. For, sir, I have seen the 3 per cent. consols at 96, and again down below 50, yet I never heard of any proposal to relieve the holders, or any such a folly even thought of; and, having since seen land rise to cent. per cent. above its former value at that time, I cannot be of opinion that we are at all bound to relieve its fall by artificial means. In the first case, many small fundholders were absolutely undone; in the present, no doubt, many little landlords will share the same fate; but those who have large capitals will only have to forego accumulating for a year or two; and then the great stockholder, having made his purchases of cheap land, will profit by the rise, and the little annuitant be left to suffer by the fall: and thus it is that, as was once said to a pope, in my memory, who asked his secretary, when he was blessing them, how all his people lived? "Eccellenza, the great fish eat the small." Such, indeed, will be the case in all money speculations, as it ever was, from the earliest beginning of commerce: but here, under wise laws, the small demand, and have, a provision from the great; and those who would advise them to bite the hand that feeds them are, in my opinion, equally infamous with the men who suggest, by way of relief to our burthens, schemes of fraud towards the public creditors (who make so considerable a part of the supporters of the community), which must lead to the dissolution of all social government.

Let the land, therefore, bear its own burthens, as the funds have done before; and the funds be considered as a bank for floating capital, and a useful means of circulating it—as a debt that, if not paid, will ruin its customers, and starve the manufacturer. And let all consider the poor as the most valuable part of the community, who, in proportion as they are fully employed, and amply provided for, encrease the riches of the state, the security of the country, and the happiness of all; for it is a mean, and, ultimately, an expensive, policy to keep wages low, as an unhealthy population can never benefit a commercial country equally with one that is vigorous: I should therefore advise that, in all our

by these our war-expences must be paid at last, the middling class having little left, and verging towards the poor.

improvements wherein we employ the poor out of work, we pay them well; and, as a great part of the expenditure might be recovered in tolls, there is no doubt of the remedy becoming very extensive, if actively applied, under the direction of the magistrates of the counties.

This letter is long, but, as it is my first, and will probably be my last, on the subject, and is only meant to exhibit one among the hundred remedies of a great country to recover from her losses, I trust you will not fail to give it a place in your next month's Magazine, by way of antidote to the bugbears with which I think we have lately been a little too much threatened, as to the state of our national finances, and the causes of our present distress.

G. CUMBERLAND,

Bristol; Feb. 1817.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

I VENTURE, through the medium of your valuable Magazine, to recommend the formation of a Botanic Forest: perhaps a botanist may smile (and with propriety) at so grand a title, but I do not know what other or better name to give it.

Amongst the various endeavours to diffuse knowledge and promote public prosperity, the formation of Botanic Gardens claim some share of merit; but it appears to me, that a nursery, to raise plants from the seeds of foreign trees, (useful in their respective countries,) would also be an object deserving of public patronage. The plan I propose is, to collect from different countries the seeds of those trees that are valuable, either for their fruit, wood, bark, dying properties, or any other useful quality; and to endeavour to raise plants from the seeds in a nursery; and, afterwards, to form with these plants a plantation, or small wood, and thus endeavour to naturalize them in our country. I am aware that many difficulties would occur in such an undertaking, and many disappointments be experienced; but still I think the object deserving the attention of some Botanic Society; and, should they succeed in naturalizing only a few valuable trees in this country, their labours would be of public utility. Many trees that now grow in our woods have, at some time or other, been introduced from foreign countries. The *chestnut* is said to have been first planted in England by the Romans, though by some it is considered a native. Its name-sake, the *horse-chestnut*, is a native of Greece

or

Pompeii, of which the following is a copy:—

Romulus Martis
Filius urbem Romam
Candidit et regnavit annos
PM quadraginta isque
Acronē dyce hostium
Et rege Cœninensium
Interfecto spolia opima
Jovi Feretrio consecravit
Receptvsque in deorum
Numerum Quirini nomine
Appellatus est a Romanis.

1st. I would remark, that I was not a little surprised upon referring to that valuable work, Lempriere's Classical Dictionary, to find Jupiter's surname of Feretrius derived *a ferendo*; because Dr. L. says, he had assisted the Romans, or *a feriendo*, because he had conquered their enemies. I should have supposed that it had been generally admitted, that Jupiter was so called *a feretro, quod Spolia Opima ipsi sacrata feretro gerebantur*.

2d. I would inquire what are truly the '*Spolia Opima*?' Are we not to follow Titus Livius, who says (Lib. 4. cap. 20.) '*ea rite opima spolia habentur que dux duci detraxit*?' or, are we to allow '*Opima spolia etiam esse si manipularis miles detraxerit dummodo duci hostium*?' Are there more than three instances recorded of the *Spolia Opima* being obtained? viz. 1st. by Romulus; 2d. by A. Cornelius Cossus; and, lastly, by M. C. Marcellus. Titus Livius, in relating the circumstance of their being obtained by Romulus, and of his dedicating a temple for their reception, makes this important remark, '*hinc postea, inter tot annos, tot bella, opima parta sunt spolia, adeo rara ejus fortuna decoris fuit*.' Lib. 1. cap. 10. Plutarch also remarks, that no one after Marcellus arrived at that honour.

I must confess that I know of no sufficient evidence to support the idea, that the *Spolia Opima* were any other than *quæ dux duci a se in pugna occiso detraxerat*; and a very strong confirmation we have of this from the words of Livy, —"*nec ducem novimus, nisi cujus auspicio bellum geritur*."—Lib. 4. cap. 20.

Nottingham;
Feb. 20, 1818.

PHILOMATHES.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

THE number of institutions for the relief of the poor, prove, that we pay too little attention to employing them generally; for hospitals are only a

contrivance to prevent the poor from infecting the rich with their diseases.

Let us then enquire, WHO ARE THE POOR?

1st. Those who, having wealth, never partake of it, being insane, from an idea that they may live to want;—and

2d. Those who, being willing to labour, cannot procure work, or wages sufficient to sustain them in comfort; or, having wages sufficient for themselves, with sick or helpless families, are not able to support them.

4th. Those who are unable to work from diseases, age, or imbecility.

5th. Those who, being vicious, waste their earnings in intemperance.

6th. Those who, being idle, will not work for any wages.

For the first, we need make no provision, they are bad members of the state; but they have their uses, as beacons that serve as a warning to others, to avoid this hateful vice, avarice, which is its own tormenter; and, as they, by accumulating money, serve as a bank for those who want money to borrow from; even then, usury has its use, by preventing spendthrifts from borrowing, except at the last extremity; and, by excessive interest, sometimes checking that propensity to spend altogether, or soon ending the mischief wasteful prodigality is producing, by ruining the monster.

For the second class of poor we are bound to give public employment, when private fails. Their claims are indisputable to a comfortable subsistence; and, for the third, we are also obliged, as men, and as Christians, to provide maintenance out of the public purse, not such as we now afford by workhouses, and parish doctors, but such relief at home as we should want ourselves under the same circumstances.

For the fourth class, also, we are bound to provide permanent establishments; so arranged and conducted, that even the most delicate person should feel no inconvenience in visiting their abodes, or partaking of their food. In a word, all that makes man a civilized being in society, including cleanliness, warmth of habitation, and clothing, with clean and wholesome food, cleanly and wholesomely prepared and served.

For the fifth and sixth: the laws of all countries have provided coercion; and it is our peculiar duty to continue such modes of punishment as shall have a tendency to counteract these evil propensities, originating, generally, from bad or no education.

But,

But, when education becomes general, probably there will be but few instances of these vicious classes; and, till it does become general, we must take the burthen on ourselves of reforming them. For, let us see what are the rights of what we call the poor, or men who have no subsistence but what they obtain by their bodily labour? As fellow creatures they have, with us all, a right to support. As fellow Christians, they are entitled to our good offices of every sort; and, among others, to receive the benefit of education, moral, religious, and useful, from those who possess the means of procuring it for them. As fellow citizens, they have a right to all the benefits of legal protection, and the enjoyment of equal freedom with the greatest man in the kingdom, including the protection of persons and property.

Let us now see what ought to be the condition of the poor man; who, in a great state, like this of England, has a sound mind in a sound body, and is willing to exercise his bodily strength for the benefit of the community, and to defend it with the risk of his life from invading enemies; and we shall admit, I think, that he is entitled to such *wages* as will support him in bodily health on such food as the land he tills produces; as will procure him warm clothing of such manufactures as are the staple of the country he lives in; as will enable him to enjoy a comfortable home, sufficiently capacious for the purposes of decency and cleanliness—a *habitation fit for man*; that he is also entitled to have the Gospel of Christ preached to him; to be allowed sufficient repose from labour to preserve his health and strength; and to be able, out of his earnings, to give some useful education to his children, as well as to allot some portion to savings for old age, in order that he may end his days in peace, and die resigned.

And now let us see, what it is that entitles him to all these benefits from us, and what it is that he does for us in return for them. Lastly, how we meet these claims, founded on the principles of justice, humanity, and religion.

We owe, then, to the honest, industrious, and labouring poor, *just all we possess!* Yes: ALL! for the land, and our talents for trade and manufactures, would produce nothing, absolutely nothing, without them. They, indeed, might subsist in great numbers on the land without us, as well, at any rate, as many now subsist on the wages we allot

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them: but, in all other respects, they would suffer considerably, by the loss of our intellect, wealth, and ingenuity; and ultimately become, perhaps, the slaves of some powerful invader,—as our forefathers did to the conqueror William. We owe to them all the products of our estates, whether by their labour on the land, their industry in our manufactures, their ingenuity in our handicraft trades, their skill and activity in our mipes, their enterprize in serving in and managing our shipping, their courage and sufferings in our defence as soldiers, their patient labours on our highways, and, lastly, the privations they must of necessity endure, in raising up their helpless offspring, to continue to us those benefits of which they are content to partake very moderately in return for the exertion of their daily labours during the greater part of their lives! Thus, it appears, that the immense capital of this country has been wholly raised from the diurnal labour of the classes we call the inferior orders. Now, let us see what we actually do for them in return. Instead of allowing them *wages* capable of procuring them the comforts I have enumerated, and to which they are entitled as our supporters, as men and as Christians; we take upon ourselves to regulate, arbitrarily, the remuneration of their labour, and fix it at such a price, in general, as will barely afford them the means of existence on the commonest and cheapest foods; of clothing, little better to the agricultural labourer than rags; of habitations, inferior to that we allot to horses, cows, or dogs; leaving nothing for the means of education, old age, or sickness: on all which cases, we choose to treat them as paupers, or people who receive our bounty as a charity; thereby humiliating and degrading them below the rank they are entitled, as mere men, to enjoy. And, after all, who are those who are the chief contributors to this degrading bounty, as far as relates to the characters that are not compulsively low? Chiefly those who are themselves but ill able to support their own families, on the decent competence they have formerly enjoyed; for, it is the middling classes who notoriously are not only the chief contributors to our hospitals and schools, but the chief promoters and managers of them.

What then is the remedy for the present state of things, and how are we to bring these people unto a state such as all good men wish to see them in?

Q q

By

[May 1,

By a very simple act,—an act that will probably be opposed by the landholders and manufacturers; yet, there is no doubt, that it would ultimately benefit all of them, by reducing the poor-rates very soon to nothing. What is this grand secret, that is to make the poor happy, and honest, and active, and loyal, and independent; that is to give health and education to their children; to make them cleanly, sober, and religious; and to enable them, under good management, to provide for old age, and a decent funeral; that is to save us from their murmurs, and insure us their affections; to relieve us from the expense of passes, and the charge of workhouses?

It is to *return to Nature*,—to appreciate the duties of man to man, and the Christian discipline of the love of our neighbour; above all, the fatherly commands of the Creator, and, sealing on our minds the *Do as you would be done by*, give employment and a sufficiency of bread to all, whether capable of working *during the heat of the day* or not. And the means of finding employment for all, is at hand, in a thousand ways; for, whether we employ men in constructing and repairing roads and foot-paths, levelling commons, or forming causeways, or building bridges, or raising enclosures, or making canals, or draining moors; the result must always be, *an improvement of the country well worth the price of the labour, and a general benefit to the kingdom at large*. And, surely, this or any other state must be more benefited by an army of 300,000 labourers working for the soil, than by the like number of soldiers; who, after being fed, clothed, and salaried, expend this, and their lives, in foreign, fruitless, and unnatural wars: nay, had all the roads of England been converted into rolled gravel-walks, bordered with shrubs and flowers, and adorned with fountains and arbours for the weary traveller, it would have been no loss to the country, in comparison to a war expenditure; inasmuch as it would have been only our money circulated at home, our commercial savings spread and distributed like manure, to fertilize the abodes of men, and make the island smile with joy! All we want therefore is a parliament determined to raise taxes to employ the indigent part of the community in useful labour, and to manufacture all the waste lands without regarding the cost, as far as giving to the labourers just wages, a comfortable sub-

sistence, and only so much labour as shall rather increase than diminish his bodily strength; affording all engaged under government the means of living like men; prohibiting task-work, that destroys men like stage-horses; and allotting to such as are fit and able to cultivate wastes, three lives *free of rent*, on suitable allotments, with leases afterwards renewable by fines certain for ever. For, this mode, experience has shewn, will speedily convert a desert into a garden; and thus the land would be strengthened with loyal subjects, whose interest would always lead them to defend the soil: their children would then be their happiness, and our strength; we should pay our taxes cheerfully, because they would bring us good, not evil; and, living and acting like Christians to one another, the blessing of peace would follow our works.

The interest of our public debt now alarms us; that debt which represents, along with the improvement of the land, our shipping, and the amount of our commercial gains. Yet, let but a little more equality subsist among us; let but our indigent brethren be allowed to feel the benefit of our riches, in an extent that shall insure to them and their offspring the decent comforts of life, a little beyond what our avarice now allots them; and they will soon be found to contribute to the means of paying that interest by their active labours. You make it their interest to protect you while you preserve and employ them; and, after all, will any man deny that governments are rightfully the mere guardians of all; and that, among Christians, wealth is only a trust-stock for the benefit of others?—It is folly, it is weakness, it is wanting reason, for a moment to imagine that large fortunes are necessary to individual enjoyment. Providence has restrained our powers to the mere participation of the necessaries and comforts of existence, and the laws deny the indulgence of excesses as well as Nature: what then can we do better than to look at home to the wants of our fellow-subjects, and, by "*shaking our superfluous money at them*,"—as Shakespeare pathetically says—"exhibit Heaven more just."

To this end, let the whole of our present poor-rates be appropriated, and a proportional poor-rate be added, levied on the landholder. I say *proportional*, for it can never be imagined, that, while the moneyed man is by the law

laws restricted from making above a certain interest on an insecure fund,—while the landholder is allowed to be represented, and to raise his rents to the utmost amount that he can squeeze them,—that their contributions should be equal; especially when we consider, that from the land the people derive their subsistence, and that high rents are a real power of taxing the stomachs of the whole community. I say, therefore, let the contribution be proportionate,—say *one quarter*,—and, if more is wanted to set this great machine in motion, let all our peace reduction of expenditure go to the grand national object, and form a fund which shall be always ready to meet the deficiencies of employment arising from temporary obstructions of trade and manufactures; a fund which, during prosperous times of commerce, would not be wanted, and, therefore, would increase at compound interest to an immense magnitude; so as to deliver us ultimately, perhaps, from the necessity of any contributions whatever.

If you think these lucubrations worthy a place in your Magazine, although I must confess they are too hastily written for the press, you are at liberty to publish them; and the matter, I hope, will plead an apology for the manner: they will at least afford materials for thinking on this subject,—for he that draws wide the curtain, though he cannot be said to *give light*, may be allowed to facilitate the enjoyment of it.

Feb. 12, 1818. G. CUMBERLAND.

To the Editor of the *Monthly Magazine*.

SIR,

A CORRESPONDENT of your's, who signs himself "A Magistrate," and dates from Southwark, has done me the honour of quoting part of my late pamphlet on the *Economy and Construction of Prisons*, with such commendation, that I cannot but feel it my duty to thank him for his favours. Yet, at the same time, allow me to reply to what he terms my errors, and against which he most solemnly warns me; that is, says this "Magistrate," "in sustaining the wicked, barbarous, and infernal solitary-cell system."

Really, Mr. Editor, I was not aware that any thing I had therein recommended was so "wicked, barbarous, and infernal;" and, therefore, with no small terror, re-perused my little work to look for what I feared might have been so great a slip of my usual regard for humanity. But I confess I cannot

discover it, and rather think this Surrey Magistrate may be a man of that compassion, ableness, and conviviality, and so gregarious in his disposition, as to have a perfect horror at solitude, and conjured up my recommendation of *occasional seclusion*, as a salutary punishment, into the bug-bear of solitary imprisonment.

I have given, in my system, separate cells for every prisoner, for the sake of division, classification, and better government; and am certain, that, whenever it may be adopted, all the benefits I have promised will be the results; and that, if a prison, on this plan, had been built in the city, many thousand pounds of the prime-cost would have been saved, and nearly three-fourths of the annual expense.

Your correspondent again says, "a solitary cell was the contrivance of a fanatic;" to which I reply, that I have little objection to being classed with such fanatics as Howard, Bentham, Nield, Lettsom, Bennett, or Phillips,—for such a fanatic, in endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the wretched prisoner, was a certain acquaintance of your's when sheriff of London, and an evidence before the committee of the House of Commons.

London; Feb. 3, 1818. J. ELMES.

** The Editor, in this place, briefly enters his individual protest against the inhuman system of solitary confinement, or of entombing men alive, and creating a sense of despair, which is to be conceived only by actual inspection or personal experiment. Many alternatives and intermediate plans may be adopted between the *indiscriminate mixture* of hardened culprits and accidental venial offenders, and the cruel system of confinement in *solitary cells*. A little reflection must put to shame a practice which has served to administer gratification to the brutal lust of power, upon the helpless and powerless.

For the *Monthly Magazine*.

COTEMPORARY AUTHORS.

No. VI.

An ESTIMATE of the LITERARY CHARACTER of MR. WILLIAM GODWIN.

THE literary character, in general, has suffered much injustice from the commonalty of mankind, in consequence of the eccentricities of pedants and pretenders. It is doubtless true, that every sedentary profession engenders a species of flatus in the mind, and that the artist and the author, like Bottom the weaver, are apt to be affected by conceits and vanities. We

Q q 2

heard

392 *Article A and An.—Principle of Life?—Fundholders.* [June],

under the directions of that eminent economist and philosopher, heated and ventilated the Derby Infirmary, some years ago. If any correspondent, or Derby reader, of your widely-spread miscellany, would give some account of this improvement, he would render an important service to many gentlemen about to employ steam in their gardens; but who are puzzled whether to employ Shien's, Traver's, Loddige's, Blewit's, or, what seems much the best, Mr. Mainwarring's mode, as exemplified at Mr. Gunter's, Earl's-court.

HORTULANUS.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

MR. Walker's Rules for the use of the Articles *a* and *an*, which I gave as answer to the inquiry of Orpri, are so plain, simple, and easy to be attended to, that I never should have thought any opposition would arise on that subject, had it not attracted the notice of your correspondent Scholasticus, whose arguments are more hypothetical than positive.

With due deference to such an opponent, I still maintain that the remarks of Mr. Walker are founded on the practice of the most correct authors, and corroborated by general usage. He does not consider his regulations (whether judicious or not,) to be wholly inviolable: but tells us, that the ear is the best judge in any critical point like the present. Now, I would ask Scholasticus if he does not think, that to say *a useful book, an heroic action*, &c. sounds more agreeably than *an useful book, a heroic action*, &c? Common sense would answer in the affirmative; and, therefore, where any thing is so evident, a "uniformity of opinion should constantly present itself."

In his opinion, it seems a matter of the utmost indifference, whether we use *a* or *an* before vowels, long or short, or before *h* aspirated or silent: but let me remind him, that little niceties contribute to great exactness; and that, if we neglect the simple grammatical rules in one instance, we may in others, and thereby introduce nothing but perplexity and confusion in language.

Φιλολογος.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

IN the fourth volume of Dr. Thompson's excellent system of Chemistry,

in which he treats of the animal functions, there is the following passage, under the head "Assimilation."

"What the reason is, that the decay of the organs causes death; or, which is the same thing, causes the living principle either to cease to act, or to leave the body altogether, it is perfectly impossible to say, because we know too little of the nature of the living principle, and of the manner in which it is connected with the body. The last is evidently above the human understanding; but many of the properties of the living principle have been discovered; and, were the facts already known properly arranged, and such general conclusion drawn from them as their connexion with each other fully warrants, a degree of light would be thrown upon the animal economy, which those, who have not attended to the subject, are not aware of."

As this is a matter replete with interest to any man who indulges in reflection upon the mystery of his being, perhaps some of your scientific correspondents can inform me, whether the doctor's hint has been taken up and pursued by any able physiologist.

March 21, 1818.

W. F. C.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine

SIR,

IN my letter on the subject of relieving the poor, in your Magazine for May 1818, at p. 298, second column, three lines from the bottom, your printer has put *landholder* for *fundholder*; and, as it is an error that materially affects the whole tenor of my observations, I must request you to insert this correction.

My idea is, (however unpalatable it may be to the public creditors,) that the only way to secure their dividends is to contribute their share to the poor-rates; for certainly they are *rents*, derived from paper acres it is true, and therefore not to be taxed equally with land,—which one can see without spectacles; but still, as a means of income derived from capital, liable to taxation in a certain proportion. What that proportion ought to be must depend a good deal on their value in the market, and ought certainly to be considerably less than land; not only because they are subject to great fluctuation in price, but because the security, supposed to represent them, will be greatly diminished whenever they come to foreclose.

Bristol; May 5, 1818.

G. CUMBERLAND. To

98 *Mr. Cumberland on the Neglect of Joseph Lancaster.* [Sept. 1,

may have led you; as it attributes to me an honour to which I cannot lay claim.

A few months since, several French literary gentlemen, of splendid talent, who are well versed in the English language and its literature, and who are great admirers of our divine Shakspeare, did me the honour to consult me upon a new translation of his works; the only one in existence being below mediocrity, and eminently unfaithful; the greater part of it being done from a German translation, by persons who did not know a word of English.

We all felt the importance of the undertaking; and, laying aside every principle of self-love, we only considered what was the best method of executing the task; for, however well a foreigner may understand English, Shakspeare presents insuperable difficulties to him. After mature deliberation, it was determined that the whole of the plays should be divided amongst the six translators; and that each should read over his part with me, before he began to translate; (by this means many of the difficulties would be smoothed;) that, after translation, the whole of the translators should meet at my house, and the translation be read in committee, I holding the original in my hand, and making observations wherever the translator appeared to abandon the original, of which I should give the exact literal or metaphorical sense: the point would then be settled by the committee, and the translation, thus carefully revised by all, sent to press.

To my care has also been confided the selection of the best commentaries, to accompany the text. The plan thus conceived has been undertaken by Messrs. Villemain, Dussault, Dureau de la Malle, Keratry, Aubert de Vitry, and Parizot; the first, Royal Professor of History and Eloquence, and all the rest men of celebrity in the republic of letters.

While the utmost care was thus taken as to the literary part, we determined that the typographical execution should be confided to the care of the first printer in Europe—Didot *l'ainé*, who has willingly undertaken it. The graphic embellishments (a plate to each play,) will be confided to the first artists of Paris.

All emulous of raising a monument worthy of our immortal bard, and resolved that nothing shall be slighted,

we have determined to superintend every part of the execution ourselves; and have subscribed amongst us 2,000*l.* which is placed in a banker's hands, for paper, printing, and engraving; which, with the present number of subscribers, will amply cover all expenses: for, the honour and literary merit of the translators being well known, the number of subscribers is already large. The price to them is only ten francs (8*s.* 4*d.*) per volume; (for England the carriage and duty only will be to be added;) and the whole will form (with the life, commentaries, and critical essays, on each piece,) twelve volumes, octavo; two volumes of which will be published every two months, and each piece signed by the translator.

I have thus simply exposed our plan and means of success: to render it more certain, I invite my literary countrymen to favour us with any manuscript or printed notes or commentaries they may have made on Shakspeare, which may tend to illustrate the text; our sole ambition being to give a version worthy of the poet. Such communications will be most gratefully acknowledged, and the names of the authors cited. Our London agent, Mr. Souter, 73, St. Paul's Church-yard, will receive and transmit them to us. Such noblemen and gentlemen as wish to subscribe, will be pleased to favour him with their names, titles, and address, written very legibly, as the list of subscribers will be published with the last volume.

Paris; JOHN BYERLEY,
June 15, 1818.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine,
SIR,

SOME author has said Ingratitude is worse than the sin of witchcraft; and Shakspeare justly compares it to the serpent's tooth: but, if such be its character from individuals to individuals, what shall we compare it to when exercised by public men towards a valuable and praiseworthy individual, to whom the public owes the first culture of that now-vigorous plant—general education, and all its religious consequences? It was not without surprise I perused all the speeches at the late meeting of the heretofore Lancasterian schools, now so flourishing, without hearing the name of the original founder and father of them once so much as accounted. And how could men, who take

take care always to remember the King of England's partiality to them, when their praises must fall dead on his ear, forget that it was in approbation of Joseph Lancaster's disinterested exertions that his Majesty uttered his aspirations for their success; and that to him individually it was that he promised never to neglect them; and not drop one mite of consolatory applause on the sturdy veteran who, for years, both in and out of season, has stood justly in the gap to contend against prejudice, and to plant fresh standards on spots unnoticed,—even when abandoned by those whom he was once idolized by, and deserted in his utmost need.

I know Joseph Lancaster well, and I am not blind to his faults: his heart has been too big for his occupation; and often, by inconsiderate liberality, he has plunged himself and his coadjutors in difficulties. As bold as Luther in his reformation, and perhaps as proud, he will not creep where he can stand upright; and, entirely free from hypocrisy, he will not cant or whine, nor perhaps even bend, where he might do so without blame. But, take him for all in all, we shall be long before we find another such useful member of society.

Let us look at what he has achieved, and, I was going to add, is now achieving—but, alas, who now knows where he is, or has been this long time? He may be, and perhaps is, in sickness, in want, in solitude,—a corpse! For this I can assure you, his residence has eluded my inquiries; and there is no annuity as yet apportioned to this valuable servant of the country; although twenty shillings a-year from each great school that he has founded would keep him and his helpless family in affluence.

Bristol; G. CUMBERLAND.
July 16, 1818.

P.S. I trust, should he live, some independent member of the New House will make his *début* by noticing the necessity, for the honour of the country, of providing for such a man.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

A FEW years ago I was stung by a goat, and, not having my usual remedy at hand, and reflecting on the absorbent and neutralizing quality of chalk, I resolved to make trial of it, and mixed some of it powdered with a

little water, to the consistency of paste nearly, which I rubbed for some minutes well into the wound. This immediately effected a perfect cure. Since that time I have occasionally applied the same remedy for the above purpose, and always, with the same invariable success, by a single application, a second having never been found necessary; and several persons, whom I acquainted with the remedy, have uniformly found this to be the case on using it.

Last summer, a man working in my garden was stung by a wasp in my presence: I directed him to apply the remedy, as described above, immediately; which he did, and in a few minutes, while rubbing the wound with the mixture, the pain began to abate, and in a few minutes afterwards ceased altogether, and never troubled him again,—a perfect cure being produced by a single application of the remedy. This being the case, there can be no doubt the same remedy would cure the sting of a bee, and that of all other insects. From the above facts it is reasonable to infer, that the application of chalk would be efficacious in the bite of vipers, and of other snakes; possibly even of those whose bite is generally, if not always, mortal; but in these cases the powdered chalk should be applied dry, instantly after the bite, and pressed into the wound, then wiped or washed off, and fresh chalk applied immediately in the like manner; and these operations to be repeated successively for some time, with a view of absorbing or neutralizing all the venom injected into the wound by the bite. If it be the bite of a snake, whose bite is known to be mortal, it would be advisable, immediately after the above-mentioned operations, to cut the wound out with a knife, or apply the *actual cautery*, and renew the applications of dry powdered chalk, subjecting the wound afterwards to surgical treatment.

It would be prudent to treat the bite of a mad-dog exactly in the same manner as described above for that of a snake, whose bite is mortal, with this addition—apply the dry powdered chalk daily to the wound, and wash it by pouring water (the colder the better,) out of the spout of a tea-kettle upon it, refilling the kettle, and emptying it in this manner upon the wound for the space of an hour every day, for a month, in order to wash every remaining particle of the venom out of the wound,

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Employment for the Destitute suggested.

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and that we are considered, if not fully grown, as at least to have passed that term of pupilage when the rattle is supposed to charm, and the sweet-meat frosting of a sickening sentiment to please. They admit us to an intimate communion with the writer's own vigorous and prolific mind, and whether they detail to us descriptions of scenery, delineations of character, or narrations of fact, we are conscious of perusing the remarks of one who knew well how to blend with the genuine impressions of a discriminating judgment, and the associated suggestions of memory, the elegant embellishments of a vivid but chastened imagination. There is, it is true, a certain romantic interest connected with the scenes and characters which the writer describes; but this results not from any apparent overcolouring on her part, but from the knowledge which we insensibly gain of the numerous incidents of her chequered and eventful life. We have no apprehensions lest the friends whom she introduces to us should be found, on a nearer approach, to owe much of their recommendation to the amiable but mistaken partialities of friendship. We receive them as she presents them to us, without any internal misgivings; and are convinced that the individuals whom she selected as the associates of her earlier years, and who have proved in later life her faithful bosom repositories, are entitled to all estimation and regard. I have been led, unintentionally, into a lengthened train of comment, when my object on commencing the paragraph, was simply to sketch the few incidents of the afternoon's excursion. I will, therefore, only add, that, though of Mrs. S. I cannot be supposed personally to know much, or of Mrs. B. much more, yet that much has no ways disappointed the opinion I had formed of the many excellencies in the characters of either, through the pleasing and interesting intimations of Mrs. Grant, of Laggan.

(To be continued.)

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

AS the following plan may be found useful to any city or town possessing quarries of lime or other hard stone, it cannot be too generally circulated. It is a general idea of a plan for employing the whole of the poor of the City of Bristol, without interfering with existing trades or manufactories,

including the expenditure of a raw material with which the neighbourhood abounds,—and at the same time giving to the inhabitants streets that would invite strangers to trade with them, whilst it saved considerable expence, and promoted the cleanliness and health of the citizens.

The eternal complaint of not being able to find constant employment for the poor, who are occasionally out of work, has long given pain to every feeling and reflecting member of society; and to Bristol, a trading city, full of active men of business, it should seem to be a stigma: for every city, there can be no doubt, has the power of employing all its labouring people, if the means were carefully investigated.*

Mr. Johnson, our worthy deputy governor of St. Peter's hospital, has, in his late pamphlet on the subject of our poor rates, very explicitly shown the evil of their increase, and many of their causes, without at the same time being able to point out an immediate remedy, though some of his recommendations are valuable, and such as would, if adopted, greatly tend to lessen the misery, whilst they improved the moral character of the population. To that pamphlet and those remarks I heartily recommend the attention of all classes; but we want an immediate amelioration of the crying oppression, the paying largely for the support of

* We do not alter the sentiment of our able and benevolent correspondent; but this "cant of the day" about giving employment for the sake of employment, ought never to be passed without animadversion. All useful and desirable employment is productive—and the true remedy for our evils is not to find employment for charity's sake, or to uphold the wantonness of luxury, but to rebuild the farm-houses which have been pulled down, and to lower rents to the scale of 1790. Let it never be forgotten for an instant, that Landlords have universally indemnified themselves against the increased taxes, by trebling their rentals, and that these rentals are paid by all consumers—by the poor who have no indemnity, as well as by the rich who are more than indemnified—and that this tax, thus craftily assessed, has, since 1790, been above one hundred millions per annum. The pension list, which amounts to a few hundred thousands, is the mere dust raised by a cannon ball, compared with the effect of rack-rents, the consequent engrossment of farms by capitalists, and the driving of the population from the all-bountiful country to the starving towns.—ED.

idleness

idleness and imposition, which only tends to demoralize our poor fellow subjects, scarcely relieves their immediate wants, and places them in the situation of a burthen to the community, a disgrace to themselves, and a trouble to all around them—which wastes time and health in seeking relief, exposes them to the lowest degradation, fosters idleness and despair, and ends often with leaving them in the state of worse than useless citizens and bad members of the society in which they were born.

Bristol also has been long considered as a kind of *Potosi* to the wandering vagrants from all parts; and it is well known that many come here while young to raise money to expend in their own parishes with their relations, and when taken and passed home, have been seen, on their arrival, lavishing money in their village alehouse, and boasting of their impositions on our credulity. Do we not even see others who have been for years established here, *acting* without speaking, and daily and hourly making dupes of the younger and weaker part of our wealthy inhabitants? But, above all, Mr. Johnson has shown us that Irish *free-travellers* consider Bristol as a roosting-place, a perch, and a passage waggon to that home, where they annually return to take a short repose, and relate the blessings of a vagrant life and summer's stroll through the finest counties of England; for, when at home, as they call it, no house dare refuse them relief, and the kitchen, cellars and cupboard of every solitary mansion in Ireland is their own, till the spring once more invites them to the shores of Great Britain, and a Bristol or Liverpool pass to return! To employ these annual visitors, and to employ the vagrant beggar, as well as our own poor, is therefore, my immediate object; and to effect that, and do it usefully, without infringing on the employment of our own manufacturers, I confess I see but one method; and if that service is at the same time beneficial to the trade of the city, by improving it in point of appearance, so as to attract strangers to come to spend their money among us, I trust my scheme will be entitled to a fair hearing and liberal investigation.

Many years past, it was my wish and endeavour to bring into view and expose the folly of making use of the softest stone we had in pitching, instead

of that invaluable deposit, the quartose sandstone strata, which encircles as the wall of a basin, the south side of this city. At length it is beginning to be adopted, not only by paving with an article of fifty times the durability of the bituminous lime-stone of the black rock, at a considerable less expense; and I do not doubt that, by and by, stones of that quality will become a considerable source of commerce to this quarter, and the object of an extensive export to London and other cities.

But another benefit has arisen from the opening these valuable quarries: the chips are applied with considerable advantage to *Steyning* (as gravelling with them is called;) and when that art shall be brought to perfection, which at present it is not far from, there is not a doubt existing in my mind that this city will have no longer any occasion for *pitching* the highways and streets; and then carriages will roll as easily and more agreeably through Bristol, than now they do in Park-street and to the Downs; for although Park-street is of itself a tolerable specimen of a steyned way, yet Mr. M'Adam and Mr. Wooles can tell us that under certain regulations as to laying and preserving it, much more may be accomplished by this admirable method with our present new and inestimable material, the chips of Brandon-hill stone, reduced, and suitably assorted to every degree of fineness.

What is necessary in making permanent ways of this kind, is to have a good bed of coarse fragments of Brandon-hill stone, over which a mixed bed of lime-stone and Brandon-hill stone, less coarse, should be deposited, and well rammed down; then a third thinner coat, containing less lime-stone; and, lastly, a coat of the gravel of Brandon-hill chips, to finish the surface, and invite the carriages to all parts alike. Of the form it is not necessary here to speak, for every one knows that a gentle curvature is absolutely necessary, and we have able engineers who are capable of effecting all we require; but it may be proper to state that the vulgar errors as to these sort of ways being offensive, being liable to dirt or dust more than others, easily got over by attention and care in the watering, sweeping, scraping, and preserving them from puddles by the instant and constant application of fine gravel as soon as any defect appears;
and

and in this sort of operation it is that I propose to give constant employment to our poor, for I suppose by this time it has been guessed that my plan is the directly *dismissing our expensive pitching, and substituting steyning in its stead.*

In effecting this grand improvement, we have every advantage—not only the materials at hand, but the form of a city that most favours the scheme, being seated on gentle slopes; and, once adopted, our new prison and Bridewell would never want work: for should the lime and other stones broken there exceed the demand, which is not probable on this system, then our neighbours would be ready enough to take them; for 20 miles round Bristol, they are already found to be the best materials for the roads that can be procured.

But, besides these places, we must have a number of other depôts both for working this material and distributing it; and for this purpose, cellars and sheds in bye-streets, in every parish, ought to be hired, from whence gravel may be at all times procured, ready prepared to lay on defective places: and in this sort of employment many might act who were otherwise incapable of much exertion: for although it will require some bodily strength to carry the material to the spot in baskets or by barrows, yet a lame man could break stones at the depôt, without going out of his parish; and even women and children could assist at the lighter operations, and the strongest should be employed in the quarries.

To effect these regulations it would be necessary to organize the whole of the poor employed, and to give to each a separate district, stationing them as nearly as possible in the parishes they belong to—each man distinguished by a ticket of his number, parish, and office. They should be daily roll-called in their own district at early hours, and their hours of repose be those of most bustle in the streets. In summer a great deal of work might be done during the night, such as watering and sweeping; and I should propose that the whole business of sweeping the pavements should no longer be confined to the domestics of the householders, but be performed by that weaker class of poor who are incapable of more laborious employment,—such as women, girls, and boys out of work, or the aged and healthy: for it is evident to all,

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that this work of sweeping the foot-pavements is never done as it should be, nor ever will while there is no remedy against idle servants or their masters but odious information and fines.

In this office of information I would therefore employ that part of our paupers who literally are unable to work, and call them inspectors of the foot-path sweepers; and thus, allowing moderate fines, they would get sometimes some little addition to their parish allowance, and earn honestly and to our benefit what we now give in charity oftentimes uselessly.

Pursuing *this plan*, we should scarcely have any real paupers but those in the hospital or sick in bed; and the sum we now expend in pitching would be considerably reduced, while our poor would be supported, content and useful instead of a burden, and relieved from the misery of beggary.

Having already taken up a great deal of room in your columns, ever I know, open to subjects of utility to your fellow citizens, and of which we ought all to be sensible; I shall not dilate further on this obvious advantage as to saving, other than by stating a *fact* not generally understood; which is, that the late hard frost alone did damage to the pitching that will cost 2000*l.* to repair, whilst to the steyned streets but little injury whatever occurred. Here, then is a premium in favour of *Steyning* by no means to be overlooked, and the objections to it seem to be only two, viz. the injury it is liable to from the almost incurable habit of the poorer orders of house-keepers throwing slop-water before their houses, and the attention necessary in preventing fine gravel from being carried by heavy rains into the sewers.

But this major evil I trust we should be able to manage by a very simple contrivance, viz.—constructing all our gratings on the good principle of ejects and cess-pools, and appointing labourers to attend to keeping them always clean and open. By this means our drains would be even clearer than they are at present, and no foul air ever be able to make its way into the streets or lanes, where sometimes it now, in summer time, is very offensive. As to watering, we are now obliged to use it for luxury, therefore that expence, when viewed as also a preservative to the ways, would be no addition; and I leave any reflecting mind to consider

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what a real pleasure it would be to those who frequent our city, no less than its inhabitants, to find the streets cool, free from bad smells from the drains, and noiseless from carriages—that this improvement will also include clean foot-ways, safety for horsemen, and that the very carriages travelling it would, instead of pressing its streets into holes, serve as so many rolling-stones, to level little deficiencies, lately filled up by the well-employed poor with fine gravel from the depôts.

Of course a constitution must be formed, under an act of parliament, in case of adopting this plan, and steyning and paving commissioners appointed, in lieu of those for paving; and no one need be displaced, as contractors for paving might superintend steyning. Other minor concerns could be described in the act, of which not the least important would be, that of using the scrapings in making and repairing all the foot-ways round Bristol: for it is a disgrace to the age we live in, that men have now worse ways to travel on than their cattle.

It is understood that this plan only supposes the poor to be employed constantly in preserving the steyning in repair—the mode of bedding it will be discussed hereafter. I am, &c.

G. CUMBERLAND.

For the Monthly Magazine.

EARLY ENGLISH HISTORY.

TRANSLATION of the ANCIENT ILLUMINATED ROLL, from the ABBEY of ST. DENIS, in possession of the CHEVALIER WATSON.

[Concluded from No. 333, p. 399.]

How the Duke Godfrey of Billon conquered Jerusalem, and was made King.

IN the year of our Lord, 1097, the seventh day of June, Godfrey de Billon laid siege to Jerusalem, and the number of those who invested it was forty thousand, including all sorts, and they were not more than thirty thousand men of a like sort, *de semblables*. They besieged the city and made castles and dreadful engines on all sides, and strongly beset it for many days. They did not put all their engines in one place. And it was a thing which very much annoyed the Turks. This holy city lies between two mountains, and is without meadows, without rivers, and without fountains. This holy, noble city was assailed by the Christians with such force, vigour, and virtue, that it was taken. And the first who entered was the Duke

Godfrey and his brother Huitaffe, and afterwards there entered the Duke of Normandy, and Raymond the Count of Thoulouse, and all the Barons. And they put to the sword all who would not yield, and then they proceeded to cleanse the city of the Turks, and then went to visit the holy places with great devotion. And then they made Godfrey de Billon King of Jerusalem, which city was taken the year of grace of our Lord, 1098, Friday the fifteenth day of July, about the hour of noon (*noone*): and then Urban the second was Pope of Rome, and Henry Emperor of Rome, and Philip the first of that name King of France, and Alexis Emperor of Constantinople. He governed very well the land of Jerusalem, and died in the year of our Lord 1100, and lies in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, under the Mount of Calvary, where our Lord was nailed to the cross.

How Baudoin de Billon was made King of Jerusalem after his brother Godfrey de Billon.

This Duke de Baudoin de Bovais, brother of Godfrey de Billon, was crowned King of Jerusalem, and it was three months after the death of Godfrey. This King Baudoin undertook to enlarge his kingdom, and he took the city Darfur and Cesare, and Yordonna, an archbishopric,—and he also took Raynes. And then he discomfited the Lord of La Halappe, and then came again to the city of Tripolis. And it was in the year 1109. And the year after they took Barith and Sarette. And then he died and was laid with Godfrey his brother.

How Baudoin de Bourc, cousin of the said Baudoin, was crowned King of Jerusalem.

Baudoin de Bourc was made King of Jerusalem, and soon after was crowned. He made a noble inroad against the Turks their enemies, where they gained a marvellous share of plunder, in quantity innumerable. And it was in the year of our Lord 1114. And after this, the King went to the country of Antioch, to succour the country which Rodehans, the Prince of Halappe, was spoiling and destroying everywhere. And he had already slain Beymont, the Prince of Antioch; so that the country was in great danger. And when the King came there, every thing was put to flight before him, and he ordered good guards for the country, and then he returned and was seized with a sickness of which he died.

eternal *schoolmastery* about the Greeks, a delightful relief is provided in the *ninth* article, an account of that late popular, but now almost forgotten preacher, William Huntington, sinner saved—who, when the inexpressible part of his apparel was worn out, prayed for a supply, and received a new pair. In the character of this man there appears to have been much knavery mingled with enthusiasm in the latter part of his life; but up to the period when he became a preacher profitable to himself in this world, his narrative bears many evidences of truth, and his account of some of his fanatical “experiences” is impressive and even affecting. His quarrel with Rowland Hill is amusing and characteristic. That benevolent eccentric said, it seems that if he preached such doctrines as Huntington, he would expect horns to grow out of his head, and his feet to become cloven. “The Sinner Saved,” at the conclusion to an address in consequence of this, said to Rowland, “that you may discover less pepper and more purity; less heat and more holiness: that you may perform good works and say less about them; that you may part with your tea-table stories for heavenly tidings, and your old wife’s fables for gospel doctrines; that you may sound the gospel trumpet more, and your own trumpet less, is the desire and prayer of him who frankly forgives you all that is past, and hopes to take patiently all that is to come.” The controversies of Calvin and Luther afford nothing so good as this. The whole article in the review would be interesting, if the subject was not stale, but there is one sentence tacked to it by the editor, more coarse and contemptible than any thing we ever met with in the records of hypocrisy and fanaticism. “Perhaps some of our readers,” says the editor, “may think that in the days of Alderman Wood, Jeremy Bentham, and Dr. Eady, whose fame is written in chalk upon all the walls, we have bestowed too much attention upon an inferior quack.” We wonder if there is any one mind in this country so dead to all right feeling as not to turn with loathing and disgust from the political baseness and moral depravity which dictated such a combination as this.

The *tenth* article gives a tolerably fair account of the merits and demerits of Mr. Hope’s “Anastasius:” a novel in the style of the best and the worst of Lord

Byron’s poems; and the *eleventh* and last, is a very long article on the exhausted topic of “Pétrarque and Laure, by Madame la Comtesse de Genlis,” one of the latest works of that celebrated lady.

Upon the whole, the Quarterly Review does not fall off, and excepting the article respecting Melmoth, and the last sentence in the review of Huntington’s Works, we see little else in number forty-eight that requires particular animadversion.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

IT has been my task more than once to remind the public of a duty neglected towards one of its most useful and deserving servants; a man to whom the world owes the spread of education, not only in England and Ireland, but in Asia, Africa, and America,—the opposition to whose system has produced benefits equal to its first establishment, and conferred on us all the advantages of our church schools, commonly called Bell’s institutions. Which are most useful I will not examine, but I feel and know, with numbers of others, that we owe the whole to the indefatigable perseverance of *Joseph Lancaster*; whom neither want, misfortune, imprisonment, insult, neglect, or ingratitude, have been able to drive from the field, even when they, who ought to have supported him, drove him by their unkindness from the country.

That we should have a pension list and not see his name in it, speaks more against its abuses than all the clamours of factious demagogues and radicals can do; and to read of grants of parliament to pretended road-makers, who have cunning enough to pass upon ministers for what they are not, by intrigue and subtlety—while men who have conferred such inestimable benefits on the community are passed by, is really more likely to produce disaffection to government, than any thing that the most virulent writers can advance. I know there are men in the House of Commons who think with me in this case, and who only withhold their motions on this subject, from a conviction that there is a prejudice and party against this valuable man—a prejudice mixed with envy, originating in his unbending character; for, like Luther, he will not bow, or compromise his objects to those who would build their own

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own exaltation on his depression—neither to the sect he has adopted, has he ever been known to relinquish his own opinions,—neither to those who have erected their temples of fame on his foundations has he been found accommodating.

Here, then, are the extent of his sins, which they seem determined never to pardon; and because he is a little vain, they are become excessively cruel; but let them take care and be wise in time, or they will, by this weak conduct, stain their own reputations at last—reputations founded greatly on false pretences to more humanity than other men, not on the rock of labour and utility, as his is, but the cant and whine of sentimentality. But let the King once know the truth, that he has never had a subject in his dominions more useful than *Joseph Lancaster* has been to him and his people, by pushing useful education—and the House of Commons become acquainted with the real facts of his continued exertions against all opposition in this good cause, and he will not be long without his well-merited reward.

Bristol, April 4. G. CUMBERLAND.

For the Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT of the REGALIA, now exhibiting in the Jewel-House, Tower.

(With an engraving.)

THE NEW IMPERIAL CROWN is about fifteen inches in elevation; the arches, which rise almost to a point, instead of the inelegant flatness of the former crown, are surmounted with an orb of brilliants, seven inches in circumference. Upon this is placed a Maltese cross of brilliants, set transparently, with three pearls at its extremities, of remarkable size and beauty. The arches are wreathed and fringed with diamonds. Four Maltese crosses, formed of brilliants also, surround the crown, with four large diamond flowers in their intervening spaces. On the centre of the back cross is THE ANCIENT RUBY, which was worn at Cressy and Azincour, by the Black Prince and Henry V., while that of the front cross is adorned with an UNIQUE SAPPHIRE, of the purest and deepest azure, more than two inches long, and one inch broad. The ermine is surmounted with a band of large diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and rubies, and immediately under these, a fillet of beautiful pearls. The

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lustre of this unequalled crown is heightened by a dark crimson cap of the finest velvet; and its general effect confirms the opinion of all who have seen it, that his present Majesty is the first British sovereign who has possessed a diadem worthy of this proud and potent empire.

The mode of its exhibition has most judiciously varied from the former custom. Instead of being partially shown by a small part of the case being opened, the cover is now lifted off, and the crown is *entirely* seen, on a white satin cushion embroidered with gold: while the circular motion of its stand enables the spectator leisurely to observe all its splendour and elegance.

THE ANCIENT CROWN is still exhibited; but, though it has been repaired and beautified, has little attraction beyond its recollections, and the contrast which it displays, both in shape and splendour, to the magnificence of the new diadem.

THE two ORBS, the DIADEMS, the Prince of Wales's CROWN, the five sceptres, and the CONFESSOR'S STAFF have all been renovated. The ancient *Gallic* ornaments of the King's CORONATION SCEPTRE have been replated by golden leaves, surrounding the large Amethyst; each bearing the Rose, the Shamroc, and the Thistle: the symbols of the three kingdoms.

THE CORONATION BRACELETS have been newly enamelled; and golden buckles and embroidered velvet straps added to THE CORONATION SPURS.

THE CURTANA, and the SWORDS of Temporal and Spiritual Justice, have been ornamented with new scabbards, of velvet splendidly embossed and embroidered, and golden mountings.

THE GOLDEN WINE-FOUNTAIN, the SALT-CELLAR, the model of the WHITE TOWER, the COMMUNION CHALICE and PATEN, the EAGLE, the SPOON, &c. of the Coronation Solemnity; the massive chased TANKARDS, and the TWELVE SALT-CELLARS, for the banquet in Westminster Hall, have all been repaired. To these last twelve, golden PLATES and SPOONS, have been now for the first time added.

The above is a very faint outline of the present state of the JEWEL ROOM; which, with the curtain and lining of scarlet cloth, whereby the splendour of the several articles is greatly heightened, never till now presented a spectacle so dazzling to beholders.

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Original Poetry.

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Dam or no dam, my belly I will treat ;
 And curse me if I don't still eat meat."
 Well, Washee, James I mean—James kept
 his word,
 Which the good Priest with indignation
 heard ;
 To be convinc'd, howe'er, and shun mis-
 takes,
 He to the Native's dwelling hied,
 And there "upon a Friday" spied
 The white-washed James dining on beef-
 steaks.
 "Ah sinful wretch, what is it I behold ?
 I grieve to find 'tis truth, that I've been
 told ;
 Eating 'beef-steaks' to-day, I wish to
 know
 Where you expect your precious soul will
 go ?"
 "What, Massa, me eat meat ? No, Massa,
 no"—
 Then while a mouthful large, the fellow
 takes,
 He adds, "what for you callee this beef-
 steaks ?
 This, Massa, that you see upon the dish,
 Is no 'Beef-steaks,' indeed—but dam
 good 'fish.'
 "Fish," the astonished Priest, with fury
 cried,
 For very clear it was, the rascal lied ;
 "Why, wretched man, can't I believe mine
 eyes ?
 They are beef-steaks"—"Fish, fish," the
 Native cries !
 "And now, good massa, to relieve all doubt
 I telle you which way I make it out.
 One day you take poor Washee by the hand,
 You speak fine words, he no can under-
 stand,
 Water you put upon my face—that change
 my name,
 And so this morning "me" have done the
 same ;
 Me take beef-steakes—make talkee over
 dish,
 And "putting water on them" called them
 "Fish."

*On the neglect of a most useful servant of
 God and mankind.*

SONNET.

IMMORTAL Lancaster! whose generous
 soul
 Resisting, like a mighty stream, all bars,
 Intent through evil and through good, to
 move
 Right onward toward the everlasting goal,
 Which forms of human intellect the bounds,
 Like the good providence thou dost revere.
 Where'er thou art, time still thy fame shall
 raise,
 Whether Columbia's or some other shore,
 Screen thee from England's dark ungrateful
 band,
 Whom envy stirs to blast thy noble

This still I know, nor seek I to know more,
 God keeps thee in the hollow of his hand,*
 Till in his kingdom thou thy meed receive,
 And thousands of his children sing thy
 praise. G. CUMBERLAND.

TRANSLATION from the GREEK of the
 MEDEA of EURIPIDES.

By the Rev. JAMES BROWN.

[Euripides, the admirer and intimate companion
 of Socrates, was distinguished for moral sentiment
 and pathos. The tyrant of Pheræ wept at the ex-
 hibition of one of his pieces, and so grateful to the
 Grecian ear was the harmony of his numbers, that
 several prisoners who could recite his verses, were
 set at liberty. His Medea has been the subject of
 general imitation. Milton is known to have been
 partial to this performance, and has, I believe, trans-
 lated several passages. The elegant Buchanan,
 smit with its beauties, has given us a version
 of this play, and has infused into it all the
 graces of his polished latinity. Cornelia has
 introduced the subject on the French stage, with
 accustomed elevation; and our countryman, Glover,
 has given it to the English Theatre in all the
 high colouring of splendid imagery, well woven
 incident, and glowing diction. The passage I have
 selected is not impassioned: it opens the piece with
 an unambitious but interesting simplicity, and this
 simplicity I have endeavoured to infuse into the
 translation.]

O, that with vent'rous speed, far from this
 land,
 Argo had never moor'd in Colchis' Strand,
 Nor Peleon's groves supplied his planks
 of pine,
 To form this first rate of the Grecian line,
 Mann'd with heroic chiefs both wise and
 bold,
 The far-famed fleece to win of massy gold,
 Iolco's towers Medea had not seen,
 Nor Jason fir'd the affections of a Queen.
 Corinth, the imperial race would ne'er
 have known,
 Whose Princess by strong charms her
 favour won.
 Medea smil'd, when Jason yet was kind,
 And gave to fondness all her mighty mind.
 O sacred union, that no discord knows !
 But as it cools alike, alike it glows.
 Yet soon are fled the joys that pleas'd be-
 fore,
 And love, and faith, and honor are no more.
 For Jason now to other loves has sped,
 And woo'd a foreign Princess to his bed.
 O'er him fair Creusa holds resistless sway,
 Daughter of Creon, whom these realms
 obey.
 My Queen, in tears, bewails her slighted
 love,
 Appeals to Gods, and broken vows to prove
 That false and callous to her peerless
 charms,
 Jason, with cursed speed, flew to a rival's
 arms.

* An expression he used on the author's
 enquiring how he had been preserved from
 want, when he left the parent institution
 and refused an offer that would have para-
 lized his efforts.

Without

If the part marked A, fig. No. 1, is horn, it is most probably a deer's head. Grove Park, (Lord Dormer's,) where deer are kept, is about a mile from the spot where it grew.

The Rev. THOMAS CATTEL, of this borough, in whose possession this astonishing natural production now is, and to whose liberality my brother was indebted for an opportunity to take the drawings, kindly informs me he intends getting a buck's head, and after boiling the flesh off, means to have it sawed down and matched with the original; by that means he will most likely be enabled to judge whether it is a deer's or not; if he should not be enabled to come to a correct conclusion, I think it will puzzle an experienced comparative anatomist.

W. GOODMAN.

Warwick, March 28, 1821.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.
SIR,

I HAVE been a constant reader of your widely circulated and extensively useful journal for twelve years, and among the benefits of useful knowledge, animated patriotism, moral instruction, and innocent amusement, which I have derived from its pages, there is none which I prize more than that which I have received to my health, that most inestimable blessing, from the hints on that subject, and on several branches of domestic economy, which your correspondents, but more especially your own experience, have contributed.

I first from necessity, but of late years, from principle, had recourse to a vegetable diet, before which, in consequence of continual ill health and consequent misery, I was perpetually in the hands of the apothecary, who drugged me almost to death to no purpose.

In selecting proper nutritious and agreeable vegetables for my table, I was often at a loss at different seasons, for a variety, and while in this situation a friend, who commands a Clyde ship, sent me two plants of the TROTTEL-ROOT, which he had brought in with him to Greenock, from the Labrador coast, and which, he assured me, if they would agree with our climate, would prove to be a valuable addition to our garden and field supplies. This I have found to be the case beyond what I had anticipated, and think the least return I can make to you for the advantages I have received from your rules of

living, is, at least, to *communicate* the discovery I have made, and to inform you of other particulars about it.

The Trottel root (or Trottel plant) is but little known in this country, although it is the chief subsistence of the Squee Indians, on the coast of Labrador. It withstands the most severe frosts, and bears, even in the depth of winter, curled thick crisp leaves, which are as tender as asparagus, and somewhat like our sea kale. The root, which propagates in the manner of potatoes, or sun-flower artichokes, is shaped like a Windsor bean, and is generally from eight to ten ounces in weight. When boiled, it is yellow-coloured, and although considerably drier, much resembles the carrot. I plant the roots, cut into small pieces, in rows, two feet asunder, three inches deep, in the months of August or September, and as the plant is of rapid growth, I begin to top the herbage in winter (December and January) and in the spring months, when vegetables are rare, I dig up a plentiful crop (from ten to twelve at each plant) of a delicious vegetable, which is also most nutritious and keeps well.

I have extended the cultivation of it a good deal in this neighbourhood, and especially in Greenock, and lately sent specimens to the Caledonian Horticultural Society. I hope it may prove to be a common benefit, and in order to accomplish this would like that it be universally known.

The nurserymen of Greenock and Paisley are supplied with it, and a quantity has been sent to Bristol, where it is much thought of.

JAMES SIBBALD.

Buck Grove, near Paisley,
May 21st, 1821.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.
SIR,

SOME incidental remarks of mine in a paper I sent you in May last, have caused the Mackadamites to throw some of their spare dirt about.—

Stung to the quick, they rage and writhe with pain,
And howl the more, because they howl in vain.

I have no objection to their roads—all I object to is, that men should be rewarded by Parliament with £4000 for exercising, for their own emolument, the inventions long practised by others.

In common justice it ought, therefore, to be known, that the modern method of road-making was invented, and

and brought to even much greater perfection than it is now, by *Gabriel Stone, Esq.* of Somerset Farm, near Axbridge, in Somersetshire, and that this worthy country gentleman, who constantly resided on his estate, rendered the road from Axbridge to Huntspil, and beyond, always as smooth as a bowling-green, dry, firm, and effectual; inso-much that stage-coachmen have told me, when passing over it, that it was *too good*, as it made both coachman and horses careless, so that they oftener tripped on this than on a worse way.

Now, all this he effected, as he has often told me, at a much less expence than it had cost formerly, merely by breaking the limestone small, draining carefully, and attending to the most minute repairs, by means of aged paupers, and little heaps of fine gravel of limestone, which they applied by means of the wheelbarrow, to the slightest inequalities produced by accident or a shower of rain. Of his methods he was always communicative, and for many years during his life performed all these services gratuitously for the public, with a cheerfulness and liberality that I have seldom seen equalled in any man.

The ground I speak of is almost a dead level, through a clayey and

marshy country, with ditches of great depth on each side the road; this enabled him to drain it easily, but the bottom being a blue clay, it was necessary to have a coarse bed of limestone to rest upon; and this access to drains enabled him to keep the road quite flat, and thereby use economy in breadth. This led the new road-makers into an error at first, but they soon discovered the necessity of elevating the middle of all roads a little, having different ground to go over. And another error they will by and by see, and give better beds to their roads, instead of breaking them up,—literally cutting up the goose's belly to save present expences; for roads, to last for ever, must have from their foundations a regular gradation of stones from large to small, and be repaired with the smallest, as this will not discourage the coachman from driving over the repaired part, and thereby he will become a good road mender himself of the very road he pays for using. From these remarks I claim no merit, they were the discoveries of *Mr. Stone*, the results of his long experience, and I offer them to your independent pages for the benefit of the public and the cause of truth.

G. CUMBERLAND.

Bristol, 14th June, 1821.

For the Monthly Magazine.

PLAGIARISMS OF LORD BYRON.—(Concluded from our last.)

53.

AND first one universal shriek there
rush'd,
Louder than the loud ocean, like a crash
Of echoing thunder; and then all was
hush'd,
Save the wild wind and the remorseless dash
Of billows; but at intervals there gush'd,
Accompanied with a convulsive splash,
A solitary shriek, the bubbling cry,
Of some strong swimmer in his agony.

60.

'Twas a rough night, and blew so stiffly
yet,
That the sail was becalm'd between the seas,
Tho' on the wave's high top too much to set,
They dar'd not take it in for all the breeze;
Each sea curl'd o'er the stem, and kept
them wet,
And made them bale without a moment's
ease.

61.

“the long boat still
Kept above water, with an oar for mast,
Two blankets stretch'd together, answering
ill
Instead of sail, were to the oar made fast:
Tho' every waveroll'd menacing to fill,” &c.
MONTHLY MAG. No. 358.

53.

“The cries of men drowning, were at first awful in the extreme, but died away by degrees, as they became faint.
Loss of Pandora frig. pp. 197-8.

60.

“It blew a violent storm, so that between the seas the sail was becalmed—and when on the top of the wave it was too much to be set, but we could not venture to take it in, for we were in very imminent danger and distress, the sea curling over the stem of the boat, which obliged us to bale with all our might. *Dangerous voyage in an open boat by Capt. Bligh, from Tofoa to Timor, 1789, p. 62.*

61.

“A blanket was discovered in the boat; this was immediately bent to one of the stretchers, and under it as a sail we scudded all night, in expectation of being swallowed by every wave.
Loss of Centaur man of war, p. 52.

“The

8 *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary.*—*Mr. Cumberland's New Theory.* [Feb. 1,

Such a work might be most advantageously composed in a university on the confines of Upper and Lower Saxony, where the two dialects of Germany are spoken. In such a situation, I wrote as follows to my friends in England:—

*Brunswick, Thursday-evening,
February 27, 1783.*

"The language of Lower Saxony, distinguished by the name of *Plat Deutche*, meaning Low German, and which is spoken by the common people, is nearly the same language with English. I was mistaken when at Dresden I supposed myself among the descendants of the Anglos. It is at Helmstadt that Low German begins to be spoken; and, I am now satisfied, from the language of the people, as well as the authority of Tacitus and his commentators, which I have been just reading at Professor Eschendach's, that I am in the country whence the Angli migrated. Helmstadt, as well as Brunswick, has very much the appearance of an English country-town: most of the houses are half-timbered, and the beams painted black, or grey, and the plaister white; though those more lately built are of brick, covered with plaister, coloured, as in the Prussian towns, according to the fancy of the owners. There is a paved way of flag-stones, of sufficient width for two to walk abreast, throughout the whole town, which you will remark as a phenomenon on the continent, from the accounts I have given you of the towns through which I have passed. Some of these circumstances struck me as the effect of their connexion with England, in consequence of the alliance with their princes with those of Hanover on the British throne; but we must look for these analogies rather in the identity of the race. Those who speak High German, admit that Low German is softer, and more pleasing to the ear, and more concise. These excellencies we may imagine the English to possess in a superior degree, having been cultivated for two centuries by good writers, who have supplied its deficiencies by a selection of words from the languages of ancient and modern Europe. Low German agrees with High German in expressing declinations and cases by termination, as in Greek and Latin, and not by particles, as in English, French, Italian, and the languages of Scandinavia. Terminations, Prof. Abert tells me, are found in the most ancient records; and, it is matter of surprise, how they came there. Low German is regarded as the most ancient, and it was into this language that the Bible was first translated in Germany, about the time of the reformation."

Herbert Croft resided some time in Lower Saxony, with a view to perfect his friend Johnson's dictionary, and wrote

a pamphlet on the result of his inquiries. If his heirs would communicate his papers on this subject to any one capable of executing the arduous task of giving to the world an Anglo-Saxon English etymological dictionary, they would deserve the gratitude of all lovers of literature.

JONATHAN STOKES.

Chesterfield, June 23, 1822.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

_____ passing courteous,
But slow in speech, yet sweet as spring-time flowers,
Taming the Shrew.

SIR,

IT is a great misfortune, no doubt, to have differed in opinion with Mr. John Farey; with one also, who, with his own eyes, might or has seen the stony masses, the *aërolites*, fall from *satellitic* bodies, which still jogged on their courses, unconscious of the treasure they were showering at his geological feet.

There is some consolation, however, not to be the solitary object of his ire, and to find that I share his indignation with the truly excellent professor Buckland; to whom, indeed, I should be seriously sorry to give offence, and from whom I would rather expect mercy than judgment.

But then again, that Mr. J. Farey should have "nursed his wrath to keep it warm," ever since your 52d volume appeared, is a thing rather hard on a quiet man, who thought it no sin to believe in those ancient traditions which the evidence of his sight had long corroborated, and to which even French philosophy has been compelled, by the force of truth, to subscribe.

Since, however, nothing will satisfy this pertinacious gentleman but the admission of the theory he approves, or the instantly informing him—"When? how? and in what state? or for what purpose the matter of the universe was created, other than at the times he has indicated," I must beg leave to decline the challenge, and to leave him in full possession of his self-satisfactory contempt of Mosaical, or bible geologies, as he is pleased to call them; being contented, for my own part, to remain in ignorance as to the original purpose for which the matter of the universe was created, and so I take my leave.

G. CUMBERLAND.

Bristol; Dec. 9, 1822.

For

1825.]

Mr. Cumberland on Belzoni's Egyptian Soros.

315

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR:
WHEN the first accounts reached this country of the extraordinary discovery made by the amiable and indefatigable Mr. Belzoni, of a transparent Soros, of one entire piece of alabaster or arragonite, covered both inside and out with hieroglyphics of a new and interesting character, very few people could be brought to give entire credit to the news; fragments of the broken cover, however, which he shewed to me and many others, together with his own assurances, on which all who knew him could place implicit credit, only excited an anxious desire for its safe arrival, and a proud hope that this country would, by his instrumentality, be made possessor of the treasure, which, certainly, as a unique rarity, is above all price, and might add glory to any museum in the world. To have found such an unimagined jewel—to have secured it in such a solitude—to have been able to have rescued it, at the risk of life, from the banditti of malcontents that surrounded it like the wolves of the desert—to have transported such a fragile bulky article to Cairo and Alexandria—and, lastly, to have so enveloped it, on ship-board, as to get it entire to England, manifested a chain of fortunate circumstances, that even this sanguine and comprehensive-minded man could scarcely have contemplated! But what must have been his feelings, when, on rushing to meet the reward of all his labours, he saw it snatched from his anxious hopes, and deposited, without his concurrence, in a retired chamber of the British Museum! While he was denied (the only boon he asked, and for which he would, as he assured me, have given up his legal claims to a moiety of the profits arising from the sale), the privilege and honour of exhibiting and explaining its real situation at Thebes to the English public, for a few months in Piccadilly. Well aware, as he owned, that the profits would have amply recompensed him for all his cares, and the honours for all the slights he had received in this country, after the decease of Sir Joseph Banks, who, I believe, profoundly appreciated his value, as an honest, intrepid and unaffected man.

When I saw the fine model of the chamber in which it was discovered, and strolled for whole days among these amazing catacombs, and knew that the original Soros, the object of all this immense labour, though safely landed,

and within a mile of the spot, lay in silence and neglect, where few could, and none had a right to see it, I felt, as all must, the source of his galling uneasiness; and this, and the public ignorance of the importance of the exhibition he had brought over,—owing, I will say, to the negligence of our men of letters on the subject, which I cannot but attribute to his being a foreigner, united to some latent jealousy among the accredited men of science, who admit no intruders into their separate kingdoms;—these and other causes, which shall be nameless, I am sure, threw a damp over his success, and, finally, compelled him hastily to close a masterpiece of ingenuity, and a mirror of past ages, not less interesting than the ruins of *Herculaneum* and *Pompeii*—a school for the unenlightened, and a lesson for the *Akerblads*, *Champollions*, *De Saecys*, and others, to be cautious how they boast of having *unveiled Isis*, because they have made some good conjectures as to names of princes, and guesses as to more important things: for, with respect to demonstrative discoveries in hieroglyphic language, we shall be compelled to wait until the goddess is more benign.

To guesses, therefore, from pictorial resemblances we must, after all, I fear, resign ourselves, and be satisfied with the old story of *the Judgment of the Soul*, and the discovery of the *aquatic*, and some other emblems—which have been known from the time of Father Kircher and his followers, down to Liethulier the antiquary, being content to add a few more occasionally, as new and more perfect objects arise. But to these we might, I think, accumulate a great many, would some one devote his whole attention, in a voyage for that purpose (which now could be easily accomplished) by going to *Egypt* and *Nubia*, for the sole end of bringing back drawings of all the local usages, household utensils, agricultural instruments, and every article of dress, as well all ceremonial customs, and superstitious prejudices of the nations on the Nile. And who could have done this service to the curious so well as the late lamented Belzoni? whose knowledge of this kind was as extensive, as his modesty in concealing it.

Speaking one day to him of an oblong tablet, with four things like hooks appearing under it, placed on the breast of the *Enns*, or universal mind, on an image of it (from the Oxford, too long neglected, marble) in the form of a serpent;

pent; he stepped to his cabinet, and said, "I will shew you what I think it is"—producing a little amulet of china-ware, of the same form, with, on the under side, two bodies, placed head to head, so that of each, the feet appeared only *when turned*, projecting exactly beyond the margin of the tablet, with their feet taking opposite directions outwards, as the hooks did; and hence, I think, we may conjecture, as well as from other emblems in the tomb, that it represented, hieroglyphically, the creation of the first pair of human beings, from the mind or will of the Creator of all Things.

To go on with this subject would occupy too much of your spare room, I shall therefore proceed, at once, with the object which first induced me to take up my pen, I mean the figures on this extraordinary sarcophagus, that are, to make them more conspicuous, filled up, after engraving them, with a mineral blue colour, in which copper seems to be the principal ingredient.

To describe them all is impossible in language, though very easy with the pencil; and some I had already so secured, lest it should be torn from us; but since nobody has, that I know of, spoken of them, I wish to call the public attention to a mere verbal description of what is most remarkable in it, and which justifies, I think, all the pains and interest its recoverer bestowed on the acquisition.

Its most striking feature is its general form, which resembles a deep trough or barge, rounded on the keel, and scooped to a curved bottom, narrower at one end than the other, and (like our coffins) a little contracted towards the keel; and the delicate indentations, intended to mark the shape of the mummy formerly placed within, give it, together with a small bulge at the ankle part, the character of a ribbed vessel; and I have not the smallest doubt that, if placed on water, it would float, and preserve its upright position, for the bottom is quite thick enough to ballast it—in a word, it appears to be a *true ark, or Noah's monument*; and an hieroglyphical picture, inscribed on its broadest end, seems entirely to support the conjecture that, whoever constructed it, intended that it should in that part, as well as its form, be a record of that great event—the *Noah's deluge*.

This design has a border filled with small punctures or dots, that, probably, were intended to represent the surrounding air, or sun's light. At the

bottom of the design is a figure of some gigantic deity—perhaps their *Atlas* or providence (for the place I saw it in was too obscure to be certain), who supports, as in some papyrus drawings, with extended arms, the sacred boat of the *Beetle*, or *Sun*, whose ends are the lotus's flowers. In this boat, to the right, are three men; and to the left, the number of persons recorded to have escaped in the ark, *viz.* five more. The Beetle flutters over it with extended wings, supporting a disk with its fore feet—which disk, probably the sun, is now a *cavity*, having formerly, doubtless, been inlaid with some metal, which was picked out when the tomb was first violated.

On each side this beetle are, as usual on other celestial boats, two adoring figures, *Isis* and *Osiris* perhaps. That the other eight personages were the family of Noah is, I think, quite as good as any other conjecture; and the three males on the opposite side of the beetle having thrones or canopies over their heads, makes it probable they were his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japhet.

The upper part of this very original design consists of a very singular pair of figures. The first is a female, inverted as descending over the boat, a kind of syren, or sea-nymph, resembling, perhaps, the goddess *Dicerto*, as her body ends in a fish's tail, that forms a circular space, in which are included some very perfect hieroglyphics, *viz.* a recumbent sphinx, under which is an eye, with the pupil seen; and below that a bird, like the goose, fastened to a cubical block by a line from the neck; on the right hand side, above, is a garland; under it the well-known zig-zag, or liquid element; next the horned asps, advancing in opposite directions; below them the figure of a man, placed horizontally, as floating; and at the bottom a temple, or habitation. This sea nymph, or syren, holds up her arms in the act of adoration, and the ends of her fingers take the figure of the zig-zag, or water, uniting with that which surrounds her. On her head stands the form of a man, with the character of a negro, who touches the orb, before described as being over the beetle, at its disk; and the whole of his body is merged in the symbol of water, except his head and arm.

Now this zig-zag emblem of the fluid fills up the picture to the frame, but spares the disk of the orb, the beetle and the boat, with the people in it, falling, like a back ground, over every other part of the

the picture: so that, I think, any one seeing it, would be convinced that it is an indisputable allusion to the flood, distinctly depicted, and the salvation of the ark.

We also find a very singular compartment on this *Soros*, on its inner side; a long frieze or design, on the right hand of the above, where sixteen men are represented as being submerged in water—four, at one end, dancing, hand in hand; four, at the opposite end, erect; and eight sprawling sideways, as men drowning. This, it may be conjectured, is to commemorate the event of *Nitocris* drowning his Egyptian guests in a subterranean chamber; but I think it is more probable that it is an allusion to the destruction of the antediluvians in the midst of their revelry.

To enter further into the extraordinary figures on this *Soros*, so worthy of examination, I shall decline for the present, being only desirous to call public attention to a monument of inestimable value in every sense, which, I trust, will never be allowed to go out of the kingdom; and which I still hope will, to the amiable and afflicted widow of its discoverer, be ultimately the source of honour and emolument.—Yours, &c.
Bristol, Jan. 1825. G. CUMBERLAND.

For the Monthly Magazine.

MR. SOANE'S EXHIBITION of the ALABASTER SARCOPHAGUS.*

IT is a common opinion, that this magnificent vestige of antiquity is

* The following brief notice of this private exhibition (to the splendid liberality of which we should have paid more particular attention, if previous engagements had not prevented) was by some mistake or oversight omitted in our last M.M.

On Saturday evening, 25th March, Mr. Soane's private exhibition of Belzoni's Sarcophagus was numerously attended (as it had been on the preceding Wednesday) by a party of the most distinguished fashionables. Among the earlier arrivals, we observed His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex. A suite of rooms, pleasingly illuminated, was thrown open; and the company continued till a late hour, occupied in the examination of the paintings, statues, pieces of antiquity, and ingenious models that were crowded around. Among other valuable paintings, Hogarth's "Rake's Progress," attracted considerable attention. In a lower room was the grand object of attraction, the Sarcophagus, found by Belzoni in the pyramid (and which has been so often described), was raised at such a distance from the ground, that all its parts could be viewed with ease; and a strong light was so placed behind the upper end as to shew its transparency, and the graven

the coffin of some buried king. I venture to differ from that opinion, and to infer that it was an ark or tabernacle, used (like the coffin of Hiram, in the mysteries of Freemasonry) in the funeral rites of the hero to whom the *heroum*, called Psammis's Tomb, was devoted. That it was not intended for the body of a king, is clear,—for a figure of Iris adorns the bottom of it; and "kings," as Dr. Young has argued, "were identified with Osiris." In fact, the Sarcophagus is in the shape of a Cymba, *Cubile*, or Arkite Vessel, and it is covered with representations of the upper and lower mysteries.

There is no occasion to inform the scholar, that mystic chests, or *cista*, were used in all of these: the Mosaic Tabernacle is supposed to have been of this description. There was one at Eleusis, in which a great variety of agricultural symbols were kept and explained. In these mystic chests, the books of the law, and the effigies of Osiris, Bacchus and Adonis, as they were called in different countries were deposited by the priests for a particular time. Portions of an embalmed ox were also, beyond a doubt, so deposited; and such portions were found in an adjacent room. The chest, therefore, though not a real sarcophagus, may have been employed as the mimic coffin of Apis Inferus, in which his effigy was deposited, as Plutarch tells us, for three days, after which he was said to be revived. It is, indeed, probable, that the whole excavation in which the Sarcophagus was found, was one of the "SECRET CAVERNS IN WHICH THE BULL APIS WAS EMBALMED," described by Pausanias—"which NO STRANGER EVER APPROACHED, AND WHICH THE PRIESTS THEMSELVES NEVER ENTERED BUT ON THAT OCCASION." INDAGATOR.

figures upon it, to advantage. But we have not room now, nor had we leisure then, surrounded as we were by the gay pageant of fashion, to give so delightful an exhibition the attention it merits. Our feelings, as we moved with the living stream of the young, the great, and the proud, amidst the fragments of antiquity, are more easily to be imagined than described. At one time particularly, when looking from a kind of gallery, over the Sarcophagus, a group of four beautiful girls were leaning on it, making their lively remarks, and laughing aloud—as thinking themselves unobserved. The monument of three thousand years, and the thoughtless beings of to-day were there;—a few years hence, the one will remain, the others will be as though they had never been.

For